

## King awards medal to Masri

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has awarded outgoing Prime Minister Taher Masri Jordan's Al Nahda Medal in appreciation of the services he offered to his country and people. At a special audience attended by the outgoing cabinet ministers, King Hussein voiced his deep appreciation to Mr. Masri and his government for the efforts they made to achieve national and pan-Arab objectives at the most crucial time in Jordan's history and the history of the region. Mr. Masri and the cabinet ministers called at the Royal Court Thursday to submit the government's resignation to the King.

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## King telephones Mubarak

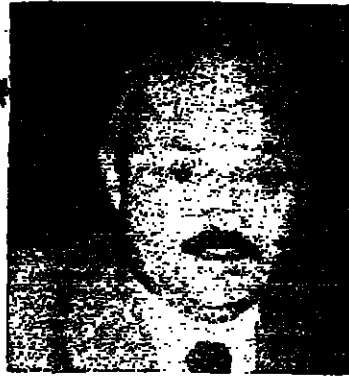
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Friday evening and congratulated him on the election of Boutros Ghali to the post of U.N. secretary general (see story below). The conversation between the two leaders also covered the resumption of bilateral talks between Arab countries and Israel, proposed to take place in Washington on Dec. 4.

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# Sharif Zeid's new government — mainstream with priority to tackle democracy and economy



## Abu Odeh heads the Royal Court

AMMAN (J.T.) — The appointment of Adnan Abu Odeh Thursday as chief of the Royal Court came as a surprise to many observers. Only last Tuesday local newspapers reported that Mr. Abu Odeh would lead Jordan's permanent delegation to the United Nations. That report had been circulating for some time in Amman.

Mr. Abu Odeh has held the post of Royal Court chief in the past but for many years has been one of the closest aides of His Majesty King Hussein. The post of chief of the Royal Court, with very few exceptions, has always led the incumbent to form a government.

Informal sources said that Mr. Abu Odeh was still tipped to be named Jordan's permanent delegate to the U.N. by mid-January to replace Abdullah Saleh. Many names were being circulated but none of them could be confirmed as a potential successor to Mr. Abu Odeh as Royal Court chief.

Mr. Odeh has a reputation as a clear politician. Karaki named advisor

Another surprise was the appointment of Dr. Khalid Karaki, as advisor to the King. The Royal decree appointing Dr. Karaki did not specify his capacity as an advisor on what. Dr. Karaki is a former professor of Arabic literature at the University of Jordan.

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's cabinet, which was sworn in Thursday, was described by officials and supporters as a mainstream centre government whose top priorities are to complete the "democratic package" and to pursue the economic adjustment programme started by Sharif Zeid's first government in 1989.

According to other analysts and observers, the composition of the new government and the explicit guidelines set in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to the prime minister (see page 4) indicate a return to mainstream conservative politics. "This is a right of centre government succeeding a left-of-centre one," one observer said.

The "slight regression" from the liberal, left-of-centre makeup of former Prime Minister Taher Masri's government, the analysts said, was warranted by the failed experiments

of ruling with the backing of the right (as with Prime Minister Mudar Badran) and joining forces with a divided and untried left (as the case was with Mr. Masri).

"We are certainly a mainstream centrist government," said a member of the new government, adding that this perception should not prejudice the way the government's policies are perceived.

"It has to be judged through its policies and decisions during the next six months," he said. "It may turn out to be more liberal in practice than we could imagine today."

"The pendulum is in the centre right now," said a former minister who had watched the Sharif Zeid cabinet consultations closely. "The government mainly includes traditional forces and as such it is to the right of Mr. Masri's government if not a bit right of centre," he said.

Officials and analysts agree that in the shape it has come in Sharif Zeid's government can present a strong front against the far right and far left and that its ideology-free makeup will liberate its decision-making process from ideological pressures.

"The choices are a bit freer," a cabinet official said. "It is a mix with

no particular ideology or ideological colour, which allows us to use different hands for different issues."

Other officials said that the new government's agenda will concentrate on three internal priorities including the completion of the democratic package, introducing administrative reform in government institutions and addressing poverty and unemployment.

"Completing legislation which would institutionalise democracy is our foremost priority. It should be completed in six months once and for all," one official said.

The analysts and observers expected that the new prime minister will be able to press on with the democratic package, by both pushing legislation through Parliament and by strengthening public freedom, which both the left and right had said they suffered setbacks during the five months of the Masri government.

The second priority for Sharif

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with the cabinet of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Following is the list of the new cabinet:

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence: Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker  
★ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education: Thumam Al Hindawi  
★ Foreign Minister: Kamel Abu Jaber  
★ Minister of Industry and Trade: Abdullah Enasour  
★ Minister of Higher Education: Awad Khatib  
★ Minister of Tourism and Antiquities: Yassir Hattat  
★ Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs: Ibrahim Izzeddine  
★ Minister of Finance: Basal Jaradneh  
★ Minister of Planning: Ziad Faris  
★ Minister of Justice: Youssef Mhaleeb  
★ Minister of Labour: Abdul Karim Al Kabarak  
★ Minister of Communications: Jamal Al Sarairah  
★ Minister of Public Works and Housing: Saad Hayel Saroor

★ Minister of Water and Irrigation: Samir Kassar  
★ Minister of State: Jamal Hadidha Al Khreishah  
★ Minister of Interior: Jawdat Al Shoul  
★ Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources: Ali Abul Ragheb  
★ Minister of Youth: Saleh Ibrahim  
★ Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs: Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi  
★ Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment: Abdul Razzaq Tubashat  
★ Minister of Information: Mahmoud Al Sharif  
★ Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs: Atef Al Butoush  
★ Minister of State: Sultan Al Udwan  
★ Minister of Culture: Mohammad Al Samra  
★ Minister of Supply: Mohammad Al Saqqaf  
★ Minister of Health: Aref Al Bataineh  
★ Minister of Agriculture: Fayez Khasawneh  
★ Minister of Social Development: Amin Awad Mashaqbeh

## Abu Jaber welcomes U.S. Jews' stand and Israeli Labour Party decisions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Friday the position of the American Jewish community calling for the acceptance of the land-for-peace formula to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict will have a great effect on the Middle East peace process, which started in Madrid Oct. 30.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Dr. Abu Jaber said the position of the Jewish community (see page 2) will be influential on the peace process because of its effect on the decision-making process in the U.S. and in Israel itself.

"I think it will have a great influence in the light of the fact that the Jewish community in the U.S. is extremely important at least on two levels: The first is the policy-making process in the U.S. and the close ties between the Jewish community and the Israeli lobby; the second level is on the policy-making in Israel itself," he said.

The foreign minister described this shift in the position of the Jewish community as a step in the right direction. He said this shift also points to the clarity of vision of the Jewish communities outside the U.S. "It also shows a kind of rationality and recognition of the reality that

vis-a-vis root issues such as its policy on the peace process," he said.

He said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference was reshaped, with one or two names unagreed upon yet.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharras, he said, is scheduled to visit Amman soon for meetings on coordinating stands with the Jordanian and the Palestinian sides.

He said Mr. Sharras' visit will be preceded by meetings between the joint delegation and the Syrian delegation to the bilateral talks.

He said there was no plan for holding an extensive meeting for the foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace process.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed that Jordan was holding extensive contacts with the co-sponsors of the conference, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, in addition to Arab and friendly nations, to discuss the next steps to be taken.

The Madrid conference, he said, was a success to all the Arab parties because the Palestinian cause was offered in a clear manner and in an unprecedented detailed way.

He said the settlement issue will be of the topics which will have priority in the bilateral talks.

## Shares of Parliament blocs shifted in Cabinet

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The composition of the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker marks a change to the right in political leanings of the parliamentary component of the executive authority.

The change is most notably marked by the continued absence of members of the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc. It is also significantly different from the outgoing government of Taher Masri in that it includes deputies from the conservative 18-member Constitutional Bloc.

Sharif Zeid has named 10 deputies as ministers in his 29-member cabinet. Of the 10 minister/deputies, four are members of the Constitutional Bloc,

and four are members of the National Bloc; one represents the independent Islamic Bloc (an alliance of seven deputies) and one is independent.

The appointment of the four Constitutional Bloc members as ministers was seen as a major concession to the large and seemingly powerful parliamentary coalition of mostly right-wing conservative deputies who had been denied cabinet positions in the cabinet of Taher Masri, according to parliamentary observers.

Mr. Masri formed his first cabinet on June 19. He carried out a limited reshuffle on Oct. 4. Both cabinets excluded Constitutional Bloc members and could not convince the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc to join.

Many parliamentary observers believe that it was the "loud" opposition of the members of the Constitutional Bloc and to a lesser degree that of the Muslim Brotherhood that led to the resignation of Mr. Masri.

While the Masri government formed on June 19 had included five members of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA) — two of them deputies — the Sharif Zeid government reduced the representation of this political group in the cabinet to two. Two other deputies from this alliance, known in Parliament as the Democratic Bloc, had resigned in protest over Jordan's participation in the Madrid peace talks.

One member of the nine-member Democratic Bloc said that Sharif Zeid had met with

five members of the bloc, but did not ask them to join the government.

"We were asked one question when we met with Sharif Zeid," said Democratic Bloc deputy Issa Madanat. "We were asked whether we thought there was a difference between a government that was largely composed of deputies or one that was not."

We said the government's programme and the execution of the programme were more important than the composition," Mr. Madanat told the Jordan Times. "There may have been a misunderstanding but we were not asked anything other than that."

The spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc in Parliament, Ahmad Qusai Al Azaidah, con-

(Continued on page 2)

## The 'Masri experience' — lessons and signals

This is the first in a series of articles analysing the democratisation process in Jordan.  
By Lami K. Andoni

THE FAILURE of former Prime Minister Taher Masri to form a broad national coalition cabinet and his resignation are viewed by many analysts and politicians as a setback to the three-year-old democratisation process in Jordan.

Although analysts do not see a dead end for the democratisation process, they voice serious concern that political pluralism will take a very slow pace unless there was a serious reassessment by all parties concerned of the

three-year-old experiment and particularly the "Masri experience."

The short life of the Masri government — it lasted for five months — indicated that the political set-up in Jordan has not developed enough to allow for a broad-based government representing the major trends in the Kingdom.

On the one hand, the conservative powers, which were dominant in the pre-democratisation era, have not faded away but are still putting up strong resistance to changes that might undermine their privileges. On the

other hand the more liberal and progressive trends, including the organised left, have failed to assert a forceful role to entrench the rules and practices of democratic politics.

Analysts and politicians differ in apportioning the blame. Some view the Masri experiment as a clear failure of the left and liberals while others argue that the slow progress of procedures to institutionalise political freedoms has lent new strength to "conservatism" and weakened the democratic experiment.

The debate is likely to continue for a long time to come.

especially that the Masri cabinet was viewed from the very beginning as a crucial test to both the executive authority and opposition alike to cross the threshold to political pluralism.

Moreover, the formation of the Masri government had raised high expectations about its role in advancing democracy for three reasons:

— First, Mr. Masri enjoyed wide reputation as a committed liberal and his attempt to form a cabinet representing a wide alliance of pro-democratic trends.

— Secondly, Mr. Masri

(Continued on page 2)

## Washington invites Israel, Arabs to talks Dec. 4

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks will begin in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 4, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Friday.

Dr. Abu Jaber said he had received an official invitation to this effect Friday from U.S. ambassador Roger Harrison.

Dr. Abu Jaber, who headed the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid on Oct. 30, said the invitation does not specify a time frame for the negotiations.

Dr. Abu Jaber was the first official to formally announce the receipt of an invitation setting the date and venue of the second

round of bilateral negotiations which began in Madrid.

An unidentified Palestinian negotiator was earlier quoted as saying in Jerusalem that U.S. officials had notified the Palestinians that the talks would start Dec. 4 in Washington but that they had not yet received an official invitation. But Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman, later announced that the talks would take place in Washington on Dec. 4.

Dr. Ashrawi told journalists after meeting U.S. Consul General Molly Williamson in occupied Jerusalem that the invitation was issued in Amman to Faisal Al Hussein, head of the

(Continued on page 2)

## World acclaims Ghali as U.N. chief

Combined agency despatches

EGYPT'S Boutros Ghali won world acclaim Friday as the next United Nations chief, but Cairo's diplomatic triumph met silence in Israel and Iraq, both sharp critics of U.N. policies.

He was hailed as the first United Nations secretary-general from the African continent.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) called the selection a victory for Africa although African states like Zimbabwe and Nigeria, which fielded rival candi-



Boutros Ghali

dates, were disappointed. Dr. Ghali, 69, was selected by the 15-nation Security Council on Thursday. Reaction was awaited from the United States which kept a low profile before the appointment. The Soviet Union

(Continued on page 5)

## Shamir: Settlements will be on the table

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday he would be willing to discuss the future of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in peace negotiations with Arabs.

Mr. Shamir told reporters after meeting President George Bush: "The settlements are a part of the territorial problem and the territorial problem will be discussed and negotiated in the negotiations."

But Mr. Shamir said the date and venue for a resumption of negotiations still needed further discussion.

"I think we have some questions to be elaborated and to discuss again," he said. The State Department said later it had invited Israel and the Arabs to resume the talks in Washington.

Mr. Shamir said the Israeli side would not make any announcement. Israel had pressed hard for the talks to be held in the Middle East and Mr. Shamir said this

week he thought Washington was too far from the region, although he was willing to consider Cyprus.

Mr. Shamir has constantly rejected any call to freeze Israeli settlements in the occupied territories or to give up the territories in exchange for peace treaties with the Arabs.

In comments to reporters before meeting Mr. Shamir, the U.S. President said he wanted U.S.-Israeli relations on a strong footing.

"We'll have a free-flowing discussion," the president said. "I have great respect for him. I want to be sure that the U.S.-Israeli relations are on a strong-possible path. The way to do this is to have an open-flow discussion."

Mr. Bush has yet to say whether he will support Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to help settle

## Palestinian delegation heads for Moscow

AMMAN (J.T.) — A high-ranking Palestinian delegation left Amman for Moscow Friday to hold talks with Soviet officials on issues related to convening the next phase of the Middle East peace process. The delegation comprises head of the Guidance Committee of the Palestinian delegation Faisal Husseini and leader of the Palestinian negotiating team Haidar Abdel Shafi and members Sami Al Kilani and Samir Abdullah. The delegation also included Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Sulaiman Al Najjab.

Palestinian delegates Mamdouh Al Aker and Saeb Erekat left Friday to the West Bank.

PLO sources said the organisation was seeking a direct role in the Middle East peace process.

"There will be a delegation to Moscow of some members of the PLO Executive Committee and some members of the Palestinian delegation (to peace talks) leaving on Friday," Mr. Abed Rabbo said before leaving for the Soviet capital. PLO officials in Amman and Tunis told Reuters the PLO, barred from the

because Israel refuses to speak to it, wanted to be directly represented in the next phase — multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs on regional issues.

A senior PLO official told Reuters the public admission of the make-up of the delegation to Moscow was a deliberate signal that the organisation planned to increase its profile.

Israel bans contacts with the PLO — including those by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"The Americans told us to disappear a little bit before and during the Madrid talks... we gave this to them in Madrid but we should not do this forever," said the official, who was quoted by Reuters. "Our interest now is to show that the PLO has not disappeared. It will rise again gradually," said the official.

The head of the PLO information department in Tunis said the delegation would ask Moscow that the "PLO should be overtly represented" at the multilateral talks. (U.S. Secretary of State) James Baker made that promise to the Palestinians on the basis that multilateral talks will have on the agenda the refugees question," Jamil Hilal



# Israeli fait accomplis not irreversible—Abdul Shafi

By Marianne M. Shafin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jewish settlements and other "facts on the ground" created by Israel in the occupied Arab territories should not be considered as permanent fixtures because they are "illegal," the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks said before leaving for Moscow.

"Nothing that has been established on the ground in Palestine is irreversible because everything that has been established by force and is thus illegal," Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi said a few hours before leaving Amman for talks with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials there.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, along with other Palestinian peace delegates and senior Palestinian officials, were to discuss the Soviet role in enabling the peace process to succeed on the basis of a peace for land formula with newly re-appointed Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze.

Dr. Abdul Shafi praised Mr. Shevardnadze for his "strong" leadership qualities that he showed while serving as foreign minister during his previous term in that post.

The Palestinian delegation, representing Palestinian communities in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, were invited to Moscow prior to the switch in the post of foreign minister.

The Palestinian officials would

also discuss the Palestinian position and bilateral issues with the Soviets. "We will take this opportunity to relay our position directly to the Soviet officials," Dr. Abdul Shafi told the Jordan Times.

"Edward Shevardnadze has demonstrated in the past that he is a very able politician and we hope he will be an asset to the success of the peace process which his country has co-sponsored," Mr. Abdul Shafi added.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, a physician and head of the Medical Association in Gaza, said the success of the peace process depended on Israel's attitude.

"We must wait and see if there will be a breakthrough in the negotiations," he said. "We have yet to see if Israel is willing to withdraw from the occupied territories and give peace a chance."

"I think basically the only thing that would change the Israeli attitude is American economic pressure. This would be the most effective type of pressure. They (Israel) are badly in need of financial aid," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

"A worsening economic situation in Israel will in turn create pressure on the Israeli government from within. It will have a domino effect," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

Some members of the Israeli political establishment, even some members of the Likud party, support a two-state solution, according to Dr. Abdul Shafi.

These included the mayor of Tel Aviv and former minister Ezer Weizmann, he added.

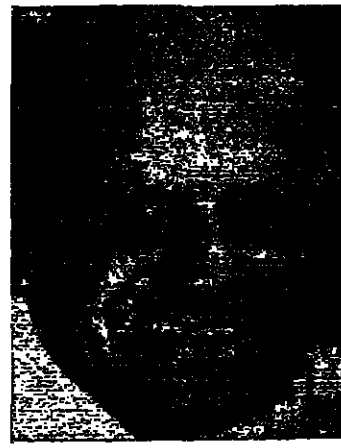
Dr. Abdul Shafi said he believed that the Palestinian delegation's performance in Madrid had a positive effect on the "rank and file" in Israel and this is bound to show up sooner or later in the polls. Over 50 per cent of Israelis are against the continued presence of Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza, Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

A change in opinion in Israel would not necessarily oust Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from power in the next elections, he said.

"There will be pressure on him (Mr. Shamir) during the next elections if Israel will be isolated during the next round of talks, but they (Israelis) will still support a Likud government," Dr. Abdul Shafi explained. "Because Shamir can impose changes on Israeli society and ask people to make concessions which are not very popular, and because of the nature of his character he has the clout to do that."

Asked if the preferred Mr. Shamir over Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, Dr. Abdul Shafi said, "I prefer if Shamir stays, because I know what he thinks and I know he has the strength to carry out a decision and to stick with it." Mr. Peres, Dr. Abdul Shafi said, was not as strong a leader as Mr. Shamir.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said that his native Gaza would need major financial help to rebuild its in-



Haider Abdul Shafi

fracture which had been neglected for decades. A substantial part of the \$76 million European Community grant to the West Bank and Gaza would go to rebuild health and educational as well as industrial infrastructure in Gaza, Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

The European Community grant is substantially higher than the one provided by the community to the Palestinians under occupation in 1990. The 1990 figure was some \$12 million. Israel on the other hand received \$203 million in loans with preferential interest rates from the community.

A new infrastructure would have been built to deal with an eventual influx of peoples to the territories. If the refugee question was dealt with in the framework of U.N. Resolution 194.

Asked if he thought the U.N. resolution of 1949, which calls for a return of the refugees to the areas they fled in 1947-48 or compensation, would be implemented he said if Israel is planning to bring in three million more Jews "then why not bring back the refugees that want to come back."

## Labour drops opposition to PLO and recognises Palestinian 'national rights'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the main opposition Labour Party have dramatically sharpened their differences on policy towards the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab countries.

Labour Thursday dropped its longtime opposition to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and recognised the "national rights" of Palestinians.

The change, backed by a Labour congress, followed weeks of lagging between doves and hawks over the party platform ahead of national elections due to

take place within a year.

In a headline speech to American Jewish leaders Thursday Mr. Shamir assailed the Arab states.

"We live in an unstable, undemocratic, militaristic region where force is king, terrorism is endemic and hatred (is) universal," Mr. Shamir declared.

"The new world order has not reached the Middle East."

Labour, like Mr. Shamir's hawkish Likud party, had traditionally dismissed the PLO as a "terrorist" group bent on Israel's destruction. Labour was the dominant force in Israel until losing to the Likud in 1977.

The Labour congress stopped short of endorsement of a Palestinian state, but Palestinians use "national rights" as a codeword for statehood.

Labour, under whose administration the first Jewish settlements in the occupied lands were established, now calls for a one-year freeze in settlement activity. Mr. Shamir has repeatedly dismissed U.S. and Arab pleas for a suspension of settlement.

Labour further distanced itself from the ruling coalition on Thursday by becoming the first major Israeli party to advocate separation of church and state.

## American Jews split on Israeli policies

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Jews are deeply divided about Israel's policies, a split between hawks and doves more pronounced since Israel began peace talks with the Arabs.

The differences have widened a crack in the consensus among the six million U.S. Jews who once formed an almost solid front in whose eyes Israel could do no wrong.

Their support is critical for Israel, because of their financial contribution and influence with the U.S. administration and Congress.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, meeting with American Jewish leaders this week, is getting mixed messages.

Most board members of the Council of Jewish Federations believe Israel should trade land for "credible" guarantees of peace with the Arabs, according to a survey published on the eve of his speech. Mr. Shamir spoke to them Thursday in Baltimore, Maryland.

The survey was conducted under the auspices of the Wilstein Institute of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. It found 85 per cent of the respondents disagreeing with Mr. Shamir's insistence on keeping every inch of land in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

Seventy-four per cent said that after Palestinians have enjoyed several years of peaceful self-rule, they should be allowed to create a homeland. Mr. Shamir and his government reject an independent Palestinian state.

Between 66 per cent and 78 per cent favoured a freeze on new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, in return for either U.S. guarantees of money to help settle Soviet Jews in Israel or for an end to the Palestinian uprising against Israel.

The survey covered 205 of the 339 board members, described as mostly men, aged 55 on average, with a median household income over \$20,000 and annual contributions of \$20,000 or more to Israel.

Their answers reflected grave concern for Israel's safety and mistrust of Arab intentions. For example, 84 per cent said Israeli troops should remain in key areas of the West Bank and Gaza to defend against attack.

The survey took into consideration a 4.16 per cent margin of error.

It drew immediate criticism from pro-Israel lobbyists, who noted that one of the survey's two directors is a scholar well-known for anti-Shamir views, Professor Seymour Martin Lipset of George Mason University.

"He's not a pollster. He's an advocate," said Morris Amitay, a respected voice among American Jewish activists.

## Sharif Zeid government

(Continued from page 1)

Zeid's government, according to officials, is administrative reform in the government bureaucracy. "This does not mean that public servants will be changed but it means that we will address the whole system in a comprehensive and scientific manner," a senior official explained.

On the economic front, while the government is committed to the economic adjustment programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "our policies on this level will be compassionate with the social aspect of our economy," the official said.

"We will be definitely applying the proper steps towards free market economy but we will address these two major issues (poverty and unemployment) quickly," he added.

He said that while the economic team in the cabinet predicted a three per cent growth in the Jordanian economy by next year, "we will take measures to alleviate the social suffering resulting from the economic repercussions of the Gulf crisis."

Although the changes in the gov-

ernment's makeup only affected half of the cabinet — since 14 members of Mr. Masri's government were retained — the new Council of Ministers "pacified more elements from the traditional forces in the government and sought to separate the Palestinian identity from the Jordanian one," said an analyst.

The naming of Thuqayn Hindawi as deputy prime minister and minister of education, after he led the traditionalists' campaign against Mr. Masri's government in Parliament, was perceived by critics as "awarding disservice."

Yet supporters and officials dismissed this accusation saying that Sharif Zeid "played by the rules of the democratic game by gaining the support of parliamentary blocs who cater to his government's policies."

At the same time, officials admitted that the government is decidedly East Jordanian in its makeup, explaining this choice as another effort to distinguish the Jordanian identity by separating it from the Jordanian one, especially while the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations are continuing.

## The 'Masri experience'

(Continued from page 1)

had pledged in his cabinet's programme to completely repeal martial law and lift all restrictions on the freedom of political activities and expression.

Mr. Masri's success in securing the backing of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), which includes the major organised secular opposition as well as liberals in the country, was a major achievement that at the time promised to contribute much to the evolving political process in the Kingdom.

Yet at the same time, Mr. Masri was practically challenging many powers that were and still are at play in full swing as his failure proved. His task was made more difficult by the fact that his cabinet was the first to take the sensitive task of entering negotiations with Israel and later to pursue unpopular economic measures inspired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to redress Jordan's foreign debts.

The latter two tasks were effectively used by both the Muslim Brotherhood and traditional conservative trends against Mr. Masri.

Mr. Masri had apparently hoped to make up for his earlier relatively weak parliamentary vote of confidence — 48 out of 80 — by relying on a broader base among the liberals, leftists and secular trends outside the legislative house.

According to politicians who know Mr. Masri well the ex-premier resented the conservative changes that the Brotherhood's ministers in the former cabinet of Madar Badran — were trying to implement. According to the same sources, Mr. Masri has for long believed that a coalition with the other organised parties was necessary to counterweight the dominant role of the Muslim Brotherhood.

However, that did not mean that Mr. Masri advocated or supported

measures to curb the political freedom of the Brotherhood as many leading members of the movement believe. (This issue will be dealt with later).

The fact remains that Mr. Masri placed himself at the forefront of a movement to confront the perceived attempts by the Brotherhood "to impose conservative codes on the life style of Jordan," according to one source.

But as the experience has shown, Mr. Masri's attempt to rock the old rules of the game — whether the Brotherhood was the longstanding uneasy ally of the system to counter the left — failed because he could not secure the broad coalition he wanted.

Mr. Masri's Palestinian origin, combined with his liberal leanings, according to analysts, also antagonised traditional conservative East Bank forces who feared what they saw as Palestinian dominance.

In retrospect, Mr. Masri's experience was a very serious test for political pluralism in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, and the Jordanian left.

His resignation, however, did not reflect his personal failure as much as it exposed the serious loopholes and weaknesses in the democratic experiment as well as other sensitive issues governing domestic politics in Jordan.

The peace process and the economic crisis, according to the analysts, were two of the most serious tests at hand, providing a framework that at times aggravated the internal contradiction at work against Mr. Masri.

The analysts believe that the peace talks with Israel and the state of the economy will continue to be the major sources of contention that any government has to deal with — but in the case of Mr. Masri the two issues made his attempts to lay new rule for domestic politics more complicated, if not impossible.

## Shares of blocs shifted in cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

firmly that his bloc had been asked to join Sharif Zeid's government on more than one occasion.

"We were asked to join the government several times," Mr. Asa'id told the Jordan Times. "But we cannot join any government that participates in peace talks with Israel. So for us there was never a question whether we

would join this government."

The 14-member National Bloc, a coalition of establishment liberals, retained four of the five cabinet posts that they held in the Masri government while the independent Islamist bloc retained one of two seats it had.

Of the original 10 ministerial deputies that were in the Masri government including Mr. Masri — four have been held over in the Sharif Zeid government.

## Libyan accused of bombing says he is innocent

ROME (AP) — One of two Libyans accused of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, declared he had nothing to do with the attack and suggested in a radio interview Thursday that he had been named by mistake.

Meanwhile, BBC-TV reported Thursday night that Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al Bishari had formally rejected a British request to extradite the two Libyans. The television did not cite its source for the report.

Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, said he left his job with Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta three months before the attack.

Mr. Fhimah and Abdul Basset Ali Megrahi have been charged in the United States and Scotland with the bombing that killed 270 people.

U.S. and Scottish investigators allege the two are Libyan intelligence agents who used stolen Air Malta luggage tags to put a bomb-rigged suitcase on a flight to Frankfurt where it was transferred to the Pan Am flight.

Libya has denied the allegations and BBC-TV, in its report Thursday night, said the Libyan foreign minister called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League to discuss the allegations.

"I was very surprised when I heard my name on the radio and other mass media..." Mr. Fhimah said in the interview that the radio said was conducted Thursday in Tripoli. "This is a slander on my reputation and myself which affects my family, employment and treatment."

He said it was easy to fabricate such a charge against an airport employee.

"I was indeed responsible for directing Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta, specifically during the period... up to 30th September 1988. However, my work there was over almost three months before the incident," he said, denying he had anything to do with the bombing.

"I am neither an intelligence man nor a politician. I am simply

a decent employee," he said. "Consequently, I want to defend myself and my reputation... Moreover, I want to see those who are behind these false accusations. I am ready to appear before any Libyan court to refute these accusations, because I am a Libyan citizen and I am subject to all my country's laws."

He said he would not hand himself over to the Americans because he did not trust them.

U.S. investigators said two pieces of electronic circuit board found in the search of the Pan Am debris led them to Libya. One piece belonged to a radio that contained the bomb and the other to a timing device sold to Libya.

They said clothing inside the bomb-rigged suitcase was bought on Dec. 7, 1988, at Mary's House, a store in Malta located just 300 metres from the hotel where Mr. Megrahi stayed.

The investigators also said they came across a diary kept by Mr. Fhimah, 39. They said a Dec. 15, entry in the diary said that Mr. Megrahi "is coming from Zurich" and "take tags (sic) from Air Malta."

"I have nothing to do with these fabricated charges. Praise be to God, the Maltese airline's statement and the Maltese prime minister's statement acquit me of this charge," he said.

Mr. Fhimah was referring to statements by Air Malta and Maltese Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adams that they believed there was no evidence to support the allegation that the bomb-rigged suitcase began the journey in Malta or that stolen Air Malta tags were used.

"This is against my principles and the values with which I was raised and which do not permit me to kill an innocent soul," he said.

"If they have other scores to settle with Libya, let them look for a means other than defaming innocent people and stigmatising my reputation," Mr. Fhimah said.

U.S. investigators of the bombing

have found evidence implicating the Syrian-backed Ahmad Jibril's guerrilla group in the attack, but declined to make their findings public, Israel television reported Wednesday.

The investigators have said there was no evidence of Syrian involvement.

But the television said American investigators have discovered "incriminating evidence" showing that Mr. Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command was also linked to the attack.

"This information was transferred several days ago by a U.S. administration representative to a representative of the Israeli government," the television report said.

"The Americans did not explain why the findings (testifying) against Jibril and Syria were not made public," it said.

Israelis have long suspected that Mr. Jibril's organisation was involved in the Pan Am bombing, and have said the outcome of the Lockerbie investigation appeared to be an American attempt to clear Syria against the background of the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace negotiations.

The television said that following an Israeli appeal, the U.S. administration has clarified that it does not plan to exclude Syria from its list of countries that back "terrorism."

U.S. investigators are still pursuing any leads that could prove Syrian or Iranian involvement in the bombing. Bush administration officials told relatives of the victims.

President George Bush's spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said Thursday that the administration has not made a formal request for Libya to extradite the two suspects in the case. "We don't want to give a timetable. We're still in consultations," he said.

Family members met with officials Wednesday at the State Department and need dismay over President Bush's swift dismissal of possible Syrian involvement in

## innocent

the bombing.

Their concerns led to a tense exchange with Under-Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

Mr. Eagleburger said that when one member of the group complained about the president's comment, he responded, "you have not called the president and me liars, but you kind of come close to it. I just want you to know we are not in the business of lying to the American people."

"I don't think it was heated," he said of the exchange. "It was somewhat emotional."

When two Libyan intelligence officials were indicted, Mr. Bush commented that early in the investigation "a lot of people thought it was Syrians."

"The Syrians took a bum rap (were falsely accused) on this," the president said.

"Some of the relatives were offended by that remark," said Paul Hudson, president of families of Pan Am 103/Lockerbie. Mr. Eagleburger stood by his own remarks.

"What I was trying to do and say and said as best I can is I understand the agony but you have to understand that we are saying to you is Syrian complicity in this is not proved on the basis of anything that we've seen," said Mr. Eagleburger.

Mr. Hudson's group was one of three that met at the State Department with officials from the Justice and State Departments for a briefing about the indictment.

He said they received "a very detailed briefing" with no new substantive information, but some additional details.

The White House said last week it was studying possible sanctions against Libya. Officials did not rule out the use of force.

The officials told the families the United States was talking to other countries to determine what economic sanctions could be imposed.

The family members said they urged the officials to impose "swift and meaningful" sanctions on Libya.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Cavalier de Labryntus
18:30	Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:15	News in French
19:30	Documentary
20:00	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
21:00	Totally Hidden VI
21:30	Encounter
22:00	Life on the Land
22:30	News in English
23:30	Feature film: "Jaws de Revenge"
PRAYER TIMES	
6:45	Fajr
12:55	(Sunrise) Dhuha
13:15	Dhuhr
16:15	Asr
18:45	Maghrib
19:00	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swithead, Tel. 810740	
Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Transfiguration Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assumption International Church Tel. 693326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 622924, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	10 / 22
Aqaba	14 / 28
Dead Sea	8 / 25
Jordan Valley	15 / 28
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 22, Aqaba 25. Humidity range: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'in	623029
Dr. Saad Tawfiq	782285
Dr. Ghazi Zaid	731123
Dr. Basim Farsadab	796200
Firm pharmacy	661912
Reception pharmacy	783336
Al Aqsa pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Sumudani pharmacy	637660
IRSD:	
Dr. Nassim Jousry	(-)
Al Shama pharmacy	(773625)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Yousef Awad	(-)
Khalid pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	892228
Highway Police	775121
Traffic Police	843402
Public Security Department	860390
Police Complaints	63021
Police Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	625101
Abdullah Telephone Repair	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport.....	06-53200	Rm Al Nafes Hospital.....	(02)247100	
<b>HOSPITALS</b>		<b>AQABA:</b>		
		Princess Haya Hospital ....		(03)314111
<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>				
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>				
<i>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.</i>				
<b>ARRIVALS</b>				
<b>ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</b>				
06:00	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)			
9:40	Doha (RJ)			
9:30	Dhahran (RJ)			
9:40	Cairo (RJ)			
9:40	New Delhi (RJ)			
9:45	Karachi, Dhaka (RJ)			
10:20	Columbo (RJ)			
10:30	Beirut (RJ)			
AMMAN:				
Hussein Medical Centre.....				61391332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn.....				6428216
Al-Khik Maternity, J. Amn.....				6244412
Jabal Amman Maternity.....				6226262
Muhass, J. Amman.....				6361400
Falestin, St. Elizabeth's Sisterhood Hospital.....				6691131
University Hospital.....				645845
Al-Muhammed Hospital.....				6672214
The Islamic, Abdali.....				66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....				6661646
Italian, Al-Muhajireen.....				7771013
Al-Sadek, J. Arabshak Army, Marjka.....				691861175
Queen Alia Hospital.....				60224050
Amal Hospital.....				6741253
<b>ZARQA:</b>				
Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....				(09)86332
Zarqa National Hospital.....				(09)80650
The Star Hospital.....				(09)806732
Al-Firas Modern Hospital.....				(09)99398
<b>IRBID:</b>				
Princess Bezza Hospital.....				(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital.....				(02)272275



## Queen Noor, Princess Basma meet German minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday received the German Minister for Families and Senior Citizens, Hannelore Roensch, and briefed her on the social and economic challenges Jordan is currently facing.

The Queen also exchanged with her ideas on development projects and social policies in Jordan. The visiting minister praised Jordanian development efforts and called for enhancing cooperation between her country and Jordan.

Queen Noor voiced hope for continued cooperation between both countries to improve the quality of life in Jordan.

The meeting was attended by the German ambassador to Jordan, the director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the secretary general of the Social

### Development Ministry.

Also Thursday, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma received Mrs. Roensch and reviewed with her the conditions of social work in Jordan and the increasing demand for social services resulting from the sudden influx of Jordanians from Kuwait and other Gulf countries. They also discussed prospects of cooperation between social institutions in both countries and exchange of expertise.

The visiting minister reviewed the social programmes implemented in Germany and the role of public and private sectors in these programmes. She watched a documentary on the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, which provides social services to people throughout Jordan.

## New and old faces shape new government

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government, formed Thursday, is the 73rd government in the history of Jordan since Rashid Tulei formed the first government on April 11, 1921. It is Sharif Zeid's second government in three years.

Sharif Zeid formed his first government on April 27, 1989, after Prime Minister Zaid Rifai resigned following the April riots over his government's economic policies.

During his seven-month tenure, the first Parliamentary elections after the occupation of the West Bank in 1967 were held. Sharif Zeid is credited with having presided over fair and incident-free elections that ushered in the 11th Parliament and a strong presence for the Muslim Brotherhood in the 80-seat Lower House.

Sharif Zeid's is the largest government in the history of the country. It includes 28 portfolios.

He carries 14 ministers from outgoing Prime Minister Taher Masi. Those are: Ali Subeimat, who retained his post as deputy prime minister and took over the Ministry of Transport; Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, who kept the portfolio of foreign minister; Basel Jarad, who continues as finance minister; Dr. Ziad Farez, planning; Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, who switched from tourism to labour; Saad Hayel Srour, public works and housing; Samir Kassar, water and irrigation; Jamal Hadeith, minister of state; Jawdat Shoul, interior; Ali Abu Ragheb, from trade and industry to energy; Saleh Rashedat, youth; Izziddin Khatib Awqaf and Islamic affairs; Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, municipalities; and Mahmoud Al Sharif, information.

Seven new ministers assume ministerialship for the first time. These are: Dr. Mahmoud A Samrah, a former University of Jordan president as Minister of Culture; Sultan Adwan, a deputy from the Constitutional Bloc as minister of state; Dr. Aref Bataineh, who until his appointment was the chief of the Army's Medical Corps; as minister of health; Atef Btoush, as minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Dr. Faysal Khasawneh, from vice-president of the University of Yarmouk to agriculture minister; Mohammad Saqqaf, a carrier civil servant, as minister of supply; and Amin Mashagbeh, a university professor, as minister of social development.

Like Mr. Masi's government, Sharif Zeid's includes 10 deputies. They are: Thooqan Hindawi, Yusef Mubideen, Jamal Sarayreh and Sultan Adwan — all from the Constitutional Bloc; Abdullah Ensour, Saad Hayel Srour, Samir Kassar and Abdul Karim Al Kabarti from the National Bloc; Atef Btoush from the Independent Islamic Bloc and Jamal Khreisheh, independent.

Ministers Ali Abdul Ragheb and Saleh Rashedat both belong to JANDA, the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance, grouping left of centre political factions.

Adnan Abu Odeh, a long-time advisor of the King, took over Sharif Zeid's post as chief of the Royal Court, contrary to earlier newsreports that he might head Jordan's mission at the U.N.

Also, the outgoing minister of culture, Dr. Khalid Karaki, was appointed advisor to the King though it was unclear in what capacity.

With Sharif Zeid's government, the number of deputies who assumed ministerial post reaches 31 out of 80 deputies.

## PSD, German ministry sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) and the German Interior Ministry Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding, under which the German Ministry of Interior will provide the PSD with technical assistance. The memorandum also calls for further enhancing cooperation between the PSD and the German Interior Ministry.

### Philadelphia Hotel continues programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Philadelphia International Hotel today makes its weekly trip to Zmeileh Village, some 70 kilometres south of Amman, to distribute food to the 200 school children attending village schools. The hotel initiated this weekly programme last Friday to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Gothic Forest" at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Farouq Lameh at Alia Art Gallery.

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture by Prof. Heinz Hotal entitled "Structural and Sedimentary Evolution of the Red Sea" at the University of Jordan — 12 noon.
- ★ Lecture by Prof. Hotal entitled "Kinematic of the Arabian Plate Deduced in the Area of the Dead Sea" at the University of Jordan — 3 p.m.

### CONCERT

- ★ Concert by the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

## Profiles of new Cabinet members

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are the profiles of the ministers who joined the new government:



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, prime minister and minister of defence

Born in Amman in 1934, completed his secondary education in Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1951, graduated from Sandhurst Military College in the United Kingdom in 1955 and from the U.S. Staff and Command College in 1964. He joined the Jordanian Armed Forces in 1953. He worked as a personal escort for His Majesty King Hussein from 1955 till 1957. Then, he worked as assistant military attaché in London. He became commander of an Armoured Division in 1964, assistant chief of

staff for Operations Affairs in 1970, chief of staff in 1972 and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in 1976. He served as Royal Court Chief before becoming Prime Minister in 1989. His government supervised the election of the Lower House of Parliament the same year and then resigned before the first Parliamentary session started. He carries several Jordanian, Arab and international medals. Before being again appointed as prime minister, he served as the chief of the Royal Court.



Thooqan Al Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education

Born in Nu'ameh, near Irbid, in 1927, he obtained a B.A. in history from Cairo University in 1950 and an M.A. degree in education from Maryland University in 1959. He served as deputy prime minister and education minister, minister of information, finance and social development. He won a seat in the 1989 Parliamentary elections.



Ibrahim Izzeddin, minister of state for prime ministry affairs

Born in Beirut in 1934, he holds a B.A. from the American University of Beirut. He worked as secretary for His Majesty King Hussein, as Jordan's ambassador to Switzerland, West Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, as director of the Civil Service Commission, minister of state for prime ministry affairs and minister of information.



Atef Al Btoush, minister of state for parliamentary affairs

Born in Zarqa in 1953, he was educated in local schools in Tayyibeh and Karak before obtaining his B.A. degree in law from the Arab University in Beirut and his M.A. degree from a Pakistani university. He had worked in the Jordanian Ports Corporation since 1975. In 1989, he was elected as a member of the Lower House of Parliament. He occupied the post of deputy house speaker.



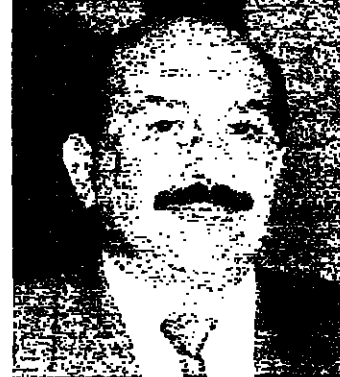
Yusef Mubideen, minister of justice

Born in Karak, he holds a B.A. in law from Damascus University and a public administration diploma from L'Institut International in the Netherlands. He worked as district governor, governor at the Ministry of Interior and secretary general of Bait Al Maqdes General Conference. He was elected in the Karak constituency as a member in the Lower House of Parliament.



Aref Al Bataineh, minister of health

Born in Barha, near Irbid, in 1931. He was educated in Beirut and Rammallah schools, obtained a diploma in science from the American University of Beirut and then a B.A. degree in medicine from London University in 1960. Since then he has worked in the Jordanian Armed Forces. In 1980, he was appointed director of Al Hussein Medical Centre and in 1990 director of the Royal Medical Services in the rank of major general. Dr. Bataineh was decorated with several Royal medals in appreciation of his services.



Amin Awwad Mashagbeh, minister of social development

Born in Mafraq in 1955, he obtained a political science degree from the University of Jordan in 1978, and an M.A. degree in international relations from New Jersey University in 1980 and a doctorate degree in contrastive politics from the University of Southern California in 1986. He is an assistant professor at Yarmouk University and is assistant dean of the Faculty of Arts. He wrote several books on the political system in Jordan.



Mahmoud Al Samrah, minister of culture

Born in the Palestinian town of Al Tantoura in 1924, he obtained his B.A. degree in arts from Cairo University in 1950 and then his doctorate degree from London University in 1958. He then worked at the University of Jordan as professor of literary criticism. He became dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1968. The last post he occupied was president of the University of Jordan. He was decorated with Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order in 1974.



Mohammad Al Saqqaf, minister of supply

Born in Amman in 1937, he obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Cairo University. He was Jordan's representative at the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the Arab Economic Council. He was appointed secretary general of the Ministry of Supply in 1978 until taking over as director general of the Social Security Corporation in 1991.



Sultan Al Udwan, minister of state

Born in Amman in 1936, he obtained a diploma from the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Lebanon. He was member of the National Consultative Council, president of the Farmers Federation and president of the Jordan Soccer Federation. In 1989, he was elected to the Lower House of Parliament to represent the Al Balqa area.



Awad Khleifat, minister of higher education

Born in Wadi Musa in 1945, he obtained a B.A. degree in history from the University of Jordan in 1967 and a doctorate degree from London University in 1973. He worked as chairman of the University of Jordan's History Department, assistant secretary general of the Arab Historians Association, Yarmouk University vice-president, Muta University president and minister of youth. He is member of the Jordanian Writers Association and Yarmouk University's Jordanian Studies Centre.



Faysal Khasawneh, minister of agriculture

Born in Aidoun, Irbid, in 1938, he obtained his B.A. degree in agriculture from the American University of Beirut in 1959, and his M.A. and doctorate degrees from the University of Auburn in Georgia in 1965. He then worked in the U.S. for 17 years in a research centre before coming back to Jordan to work at the Jordan University of Science and Technology as the university vice-president for Agriculture Affairs.



Yanal Hikmat, minister of tourism and antiquities

Born in Amman in 1933, he obtained a B.A. in economics and tourism from California University in 1956. He worked at the Foreign Ministry and as chief of Royal protocol. He then served as foreign minister in two consecutive governments.



Jamal Al Sarayreh, minister of communications

Born in Hashimiyeh, Karak, in 1945, he obtained a B.A. in English literature from the University of Kuwait in 1976 and a diploma in law and international relations from Wales University. He then worked as a researcher and consultant at Aramco. He was elected to the Lower House of Parliament in 1989 and then served as minister of transport and communications.



Abdullah Ensour, minister of industry and trade

Born in Salt in 1939, he was educated at the American University of Beirut and in the United States where he graduated with a Masters degree in 1965, and with a Doctorate degree from the Sorbonne University in Paris. He is member of Parliament, elected in the 1989 elections, and formerly served as minister of finance in the cabinet of Zeid Rifai. He also served as director of the Income Tax Department and in several other posts here and abroad. He also served as minister of education, planning and foreign affairs.

## Corporation increasing self-reliance, saving government money

AMMAN (Petra) — Aqaba Railway Station Corporation Director-General Mohammad Kreishan Thursday said the corporation has contributed to saving hard currency by making the necessary maintenance of the trains, locomotives and batteries locally rather than buying new ones or sending them for repair abroad.

He said that the corporation has manufactured locomotives at a cost of JD 4,600 each while the imported ones cost JD 14,000 each. He added that the corporation's workshops also managed to manufacture batteries at a cost of JD 310 while the imported ones cost JD 5,000 each.

He said that the workshops also manufactured doors for the

carriages, air filters and rubbers which would have cost the treasury huge amounts of money had they been imported from abroad.

The corporation is in the process of restoring 56 French-made industrial carriages which are not now in operation, he said.

Once they are restored, they will be put to use by the corporation, he said.

This process, he added, will ensure huge savings in hard currency.

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1	22324	22	24232
2	26728	23	4783
3	25005	24	16832
4	17639	25	7115
5	4156	26	22423
6	7421	27	5454
7	1560	28	6768
8	23939	29	16876
9	3918	30	3926
10	14669	31	29934
11	14657	32	16892
12	3991	33	27311
13	11875	34	11115
14	21093	35	15807
15	23663	36	28535
16	4302	37	440
17	1811	38	1836
18	26123	39	19541
19	25238	40	4439
20	7170	41	26695
21	15729	42	22794

Those who have the winning numbers please call at the orphanage, Marka Al Shamaliyyeh, near Public Transport Corporation — tel. 892680

## بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN Al-Aqsa Mosque & Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee

### Invitation for Pre-qualification scheme for International Contractors

The Restoration Committee for Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock would like to arrange a Pre-qualification Scheme for International Contractors, in order to invite appropriate candidates to submit their offer for a "Restoration Project for the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem". The Dome of the Rock is considered as one of the most significant edifices in the world, for its unique design, decoration and beauty. It was an act of sublime devotion. It was built in the late Seventh Century and considered as one of the oldest existing and well preserved Islamic Shrines which still retains its original design and structure and one of the most important monuments of the world Architectural Heritage. The scope of work consists of three parts and will be issued in one tender.

#### Part One: The Dome:

Taking down the existing aluminium sheets and replace it with Copper / Zinc glazed sheets after laying timber boards in accordance with tender documents and drawings prepared for this purpose. For this part, almost all constructional materials had been provided on site.

#### Part Two: The Ambulatory Roof:

Taking down the existing concrete & aluminium roof and constructional aluminium trusses underneath. Supply and fix timber trusses, timber boarding, lead sheeting in accordance with tender documents and drawings prepared for this purpose.

#### Part Three:

Supply and install a fire Alarm and Protection System in the Dome of the Rock in accordance with tender documents and drawings prepared for this purpose.

International contractors who are specialised in this work and would like to contribute to this project are invited to collect a pre-qualification form from:

Restoration Committee Secretary / Director of Al-Aqsa Mosque  
Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs

Amman-Jabal Al-Hussein  
P.O. Box 659 Tel. 665141-5 Fax: 602254

Final date for submission of pre-qualification application not later than 12:00 noon Wednesday, 15th of January 1992



## Jordan Times

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 Jordan Times advertising department.

## A challenge and duty

COMING AS it does on the heels of the collapse of former Prime Minister Taher Masri's efforts to galvanise sufficient parliamentary support from the traditionalists and leftist groups in the Lower House of Parliament, the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker can be seen as an effort to shift its parliamentary base to the right of centre instead of relying on the now defunct Masri power base. This shift in political orientation can be readily seen from the composition of the 29-member cabinet embracing mostly right of centre elements in a bid to provide the new government with sufficient strength and stability. One of the basic failings of the former government has been its inability to overcome the paralysis that haunted it right from the word go. The chronic friction between the legislative and executive branches of government during the reign of Mr. Masri had often been translated into inaction and confusion at a time when the country needed a strong-willed government to tackle the challenges of the hour in this rapidly changing world. No wonder then that His Majesty King Hussein underscored in his letter of appointment to Sharif Zeid the many national, regional and international challenges facing the Kingdom and prefaced his outline for the future policies of the country with clear reference to them.

Indeed the new government has before it formidable tasks and missions ranging from pressing local issues to regional and global problems looming in the horizon. To succeed, it needs all the strength and support it can muster whether from Parliament or the public. That is why every effort was made to secure for it as broad a base as can withstand the test of time. In this vein, and as specifically highlighted by the Royal letter of designation, the second government of Sharif Zeid is entrusted with the task of finishing what his first government embarked on doing in 1989, namely, the consolidation of the democratic process on the basis of reformed election law and the adoption of an entirely new legislation prescribing the perimeters of political parties that are destined to be the mainstay of pluralistic democracy. But this is not all. The new cabinet has also a list of difficult domestic issues to tackle that are essentially economic. With poverty and unemployment rampant and reaching unprecedented heights, the government has little time to lose before it begins the process of reversing the economic and fiscal hardships that ensued not only from the Gulf war but also from the era that preceded that disastrous conflict. There is no denying that Jordanian standard of living has undergone tremendous downfall in the last four or five years, and to even contain the crisis would require ingenuity and determination that could break the back of most governments.

It remains to be seen whether the government can effectively handle such urgent problems. In the final analysis, it is the new government's ability to meet head on the economic problems that will determine its success or failure.

It is axiomatic that Jordan's economic woes cannot be addressed in isolation from the issues of war and peace in the region. Without political stability and security in the Middle East, no country in the area stands a chance to rectify its internal socio-political problems. That would explain in part at least the King's description of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East as among the new government's principal goals. The King was unequivocal in mandating the new cabinet with the task of galvanising all efforts and energies for that purpose as a matter of highest priority.

Meanwhile, all Jordanians are called upon to shoulder their responsibility to enable Sharif Zeid and his colleagues to succeed in their efforts to translate the letter of appointment into reality. His success would be success to all of us.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW that the Americans are to host the up coming bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel, it is incumbent on the U.S. administration to be fair and just in dealing with the parties, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper said that it is inconceivable to see the Israelis being invited to sit in Washington for talks with the Arabs while they are guilty of so many crimes, the latest of which is the stealing of the Islamic documents from the Sharia courthouse in Jerusalem. The fact that the upcoming negotiations are being held in Washington places new and heavy responsibility on the U.S. administration which, the paper said, should be fair and just and should demand that the stolen documents, which prove Islamic rights in the holy city, be returned before such negotiations can begin. It said that the Israelis had stolen the documents hoping to deprive the Arabs of the essential evidence that proves their rights in the holy places. Such a crime is committed while the Americans and other nations as well as the United Nations, look on. It is the responsibility of Washington, which is hosting the up coming meetings, to take steps to redress the situation and ensure the return of the documents to their rightful owners, the paper said. The Israeli crime, the paper added, is no less evil than the downing of passenger planes and terrorist attacks on innocent civilians. The paper said that it would be difficult to convince the Arabs of the importance of pursuing negotiations with Israel unless Israel's terrorism campaigns are brought to an end.

It is rather difficult to be objective and fair in judging the government of outgoing Prime Minister Taher Masri simply because it was not allowed to complete its programme as pledged before Parliament at the outset of its mandate, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily. However, Ahmad Dabbas said, one can say that the Masri government had to face a hard time over its dealings with the parliamentary blocs and the participation in the Middle East peace process. One can also say that the outgoing government had adhered strictly to the rules of democracy by bowing out to open the way for another team after having lost the unanimous support of the Lower House. Dabbas said.

# King's letter of appointment to Sharif Zeid Jordan faces unprecedented challenges at national, regional and international levels

Government's major mission is to ensure success of peace process; strains between executive and legislative appeared going beyond red line; all Jordanians are partners in development and benefits; national unity shall be protected by law

Following is an unofficial translation of His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker:

Dear brother Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker,

I send you my deepest feelings of affection and greetings.

You have been throughout your life an honest brother accompanying us throughout the long trip of responsibility, and I found in you a true and trusted supporter, under all circumstances and in any mission or public office you have assumed.

You have been a dear friend who spared no effort to serve the nation and the Jordanian people. You have been true to your nation, confidently working to promote its future, and a true Hashemite in heart and soul and practice. This was Shaker Ben Zeid, the great man who fought alongside the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein... a trustworthy companion.

In view of the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri, and in light of our joint and long march, in view of your wisdom, integrity and loyalty, your far-sightedness and your full knowledge of the state's issues and its aspiration, and your deep insight of the current regional and international developments with their surprises and changes, I am pleased to entrust you with the formation of a new government at this particular moment when Jordan finds itself facing an unprecedented host of challenges at the national, regional and international levels.

You have earlier shouldered the responsibility of heading a government under very difficult circumstances and you proved to be trustworthy of the mission when you put things right and prepared the Jordanian society for the resumption of democratic life by organising as general election that proved to be exemplary and free. The two governments formed after your mandate followed the path of democracy, but the matters were not so easy or smooth for them. There were strains between the executive and legislative authorities and some dangerous excesses appeared, going beyond the red line of separation between the two authorities. The reasons behind this were the deviations from the norms of democracy resulting

from the long break to democratic practices. This has left its negative impact on the general administration of state affairs.

In view of this situation and in order for matters to be corrected, the process of democracy deepened and the standard of public administration improved to achieve the aspired national goals required by the coming stage. I would like to reaffirm the following objectives and principles.

### On the Domestic Front

First: The government is required to bolster the pillars of national unity in all forms because this unity is the true guarantee for state security and strength and a pre-requisite for progress and development. Under this unity, all Jordanians are equal before the law, regardless of their origin, affiliation, sex, faith, sect or colour. All Jordanians are partners in development and in acquiring benefits. Perhaps the most important national priority here, in strengthening national unity, is the prevalence of the law and the process of democracy. The government should see to it that development should be equitable and fair to all regions and there should not be any leniency towards those trying to tamper with the national fabric in word, in deed or in slogan or any other act. The law should be applied in full.

Second: The government is required to support all measures leading to stability in all its dimensions. Stability is not confined to economic and social matters, but rather it affects the relationship between the legislative and executive authorities to ensure smooth state performance in harmony and accord. The achievement of this objective is the joint responsibility of the two authorities so that the level of performance would not decline nor would have any interruption of the functioning of the various state institutions, which tend to confuse the national programmes and harm public's interests. The most conspicuous aspect that marred the relationship between the executive and legislative authorities was

perhaps the formation of three different governments in two years and the reshuffles in the former two governments. I do not need to reemphasise the necessity of separating the two authorities in accordance with the provisions of the constitutions. But I stress the fact that one authority complements the other and relationship should be based on cooperation and not on discord that could bring about imbalances and disrupt the work of the two authorities. The two sides ought to initiate dialogue and work together to serve the public and safeguard national interests.

Third: The Armed Forces and other security services remain the shield protecting the nation, and they form the most important pillars for stability and development. To bolster their work and promote their performance the two forces should be kept insulated from political affairs. This is a joint responsibility reaffirmed by the National Charter and has been proven as effective and sound throughout the previous experiments in Jordan. No doubt this issue is not overlooked by you, a man who has served in the Arab army.

Fourth: The government should pursue the process of democracy and achieve political pluralism as provided for by the National Charter this means that the government should go ahead with legal procedures to achieve that, especially the enactment of a law on licensing political parties which should be truly Jordanian in form and in practice and loyalty, as well as the law on press and publication in line with the principles of the Constitution and the National Charter and in a manner that would safeguard the higher national interests. There must also be reaffirmation of the process of democracy as a way of life that should be further promoted with members of the public oriented on their responsibilities through the information circles and the media as well as the educational institutions. This is needed so that the roots of democracy can be embedded in a sound manner under the ceiling of Parliament or outside. One can never serve justice to democracy unless the citizens have been freed of all the elements of fear and no one can claim to be committed to democracy if he

works in the darkness or practice ideological terrorism through leaflets' letters and the phone as well as other means. Any such action is to be considered undemocratic and against the principles of the National Charter. Such elements must be exposed as working against the will of the people and their democratic process and should be held accountable for these actions under the law.

Fifth: Under democracy national responsibilities grow and increase for the official information circles. Therefore, informational material should be based on reason and knowledge seeking to serve the national interest like all other information circles in other democratic countries where people can differentiate between anarchy resulting from irresponsible freedom and between freedom characterised with responsibility.

Sixth: The government is required to go ahead with the implementation of the economic restructuring programme now that matters started to move slowly towards overcoming the negative effects of the Gulf crisis. The first task should be serious work to deal with the imbalances and weaknesses on the domestic and external fronts in the national economy. The government should create the opportune climate to attract investors from abroad, should encourage more savings and stimulate the production process and should look for new markets abroad to export Jordan's goods and skilled labour. The government should resume the process of economic and social development and should deal with the pockets of poverty and must help promote human resources through vocational training mainly focusing on the economy and services in the fields of tourism, transport, consultancy and others. The private sector should be stimulated to help find solutions for the unemployment problem and help in laying down agricultural plans to guide agricultural policies.

Seventh: Jordan which imports most of its energy requirements and suffers from acute water shortages should adopt a single two-pronged policy. One: it should intensify the exploration of energy and water resources and develop the existing re-

sources. Two: the country should adopt a clear strategy with regard to protecting the available energy and water resources by proper and rational uses and the government should work out national policies and plans to achieve that goal.

Eighth: The government should give its attention to developing public administration and should adopt a serious plan to achieve that goal and to absorb people with excellent capabilities, and should benefit from the expatriates expertise. Work should be done in accordance with laws and regulations and people should be given a fair chance and offered equal opportunities. The government ought to put an end to nepotism which has lately been increasing even under democracy. Successful leadership can only come as a result of efficient administration working in accordance with a sound scientific criteria. There is no doubt that quick, repeated and unplanned changes in public administration are bound to upset public administration and can harm people's interests and disrupt government's plans.

### On the Arab Front

Jordan which has always lived to serve its nation and to bring about cooperation and coordination among the pan-Arab family, has never relented in its conviction despite strains in inter-Arab relations over the Gulf crisis.

Therefore, we emphasise the importance of stimulating the dialogue among Arab governments to resume natural relations among themselves in general and between Jordan and the other Arab countries in particular.

We believe that continued dialogue can remove misunderstandings once the facts have been exposed, they would help reduce tension restore confidence because it is the basis of understanding and joint action among Arabs. An initiative like that of Saudi Arabia which recently reopened its borders to Jordanian goods and transportation, forms a good beginning of relaxed relations. We are grateful for the Saudi initiative and we ought to pursue all avenues to bring about a quiet dialogue based on good intentions and our deep-rooted affection for our Arab brothers. We must emphasise that safeguarding the highest Arab in-

terests should be the objective of all without any exception at a time when the Arab Nation now stands at a cross-roads requiring collective action towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means.

### On the International Front:

Jordan enjoys world respect and it should preserve that privilege through concerted endeavours. We should benefit and build on the gains acquired from Jordan's moderate and balanced policies based on mutual respect with other countries and friendships. We ought to pursue the goal of interacting with other nations, seeking to expand the circle of our cooperation with them in a manner that would safeguard our national interests and enhance our regional standing. Perhaps, the most effective measure in this sense is to restate Jordan's position in all its dimensions.

### The Peace process

One of the most major missions for the new government at this stage is to pursue the participation in the peace process started by the outgoing government. The government must mobilise all its efforts and energies to contribute to the success of this process which is still at the beginning.

It is in our belief that success means reaching a just and durable and comprehensive peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which should apply to all parts of the occupied Arab lands including Arab Jerusalem and which entails a solution for the Palestine problem in all its dimensions and on the basis of the U.N. resolutions. This is the solution which would ensure for the Palestinians their national and legitimate rights including the right to self determination on their national soil.

On this occasion, we reiterate our full backing for our joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace process expressing our deep pride in its national and noble mission and its distinguished accomplishments at the Madrid conference.

Successful management of national, pan-Arab and international policies on the basis of the aforementioned principles can ensure success in the battle for peace in which we must get involved. I wish you all success.

## Sharif Zeid's letter of acceptance to King Hussein Sharif Zeid: Letter of appointment will guide my government's actions 'We will face the challenge of peace'

The following is an unofficial translation of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's letter of acceptance to form a new government addressed to His Majesty King Hussein:

Your Majesty,

I am honoured to be re-entrusted with your confidence to form a new government in Jordan. I send you my affection and pledge loyalty and allegiance coupled with the deepest feelings of appreciation and gratitude. I have served the Jordanian people, loyal to the Hashemite Throne and a soldier in the Armed Forces which have always expressed affection for and confidence in Your Majesty.

It is most difficult for me to express to Your Majesty, whom I accompanied throughout my life benefiting from your wisdom, the real appreciation for your teachings over the years. My colleagues in the government and I assume the responsibility of government fully realising and complying with your Royal directives.

Your Royal trust in me to form a government comes at a crucial



Sharif Zeid being sworn in as prime minister on Thursday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Awan)

(Continued on page 5)

## King's letter of acceptance of Masri's resignation King expresses appreciation of outgoing premier's endeavours

Following is an unofficial translation of His Majesty the King's letter accepting the resignation of Mr. Taher Masri:

I express my affection and deep appreciation to you for your service. I hope you will pass on to your colleagues my greetings and gratitude for shouldering the responsibilities for their country and people.

You have worked during a crucial stage pursuing the course of construction, and have been following your progress towards enhancing democracy following the endorsement of the national pact. I have followed your endeavours to deal with the economic and financial issues as we together have been trying to deal with the negative aspects of the Gulf crisis.

My choice of you as prime minister at the previous stage came as an expression on our part of the great confidence in you and in your capabilities of shouldering the trust and in fulfilling the dear aspirations of our people.

I would like to mention in particular your following up the course of bolstering the foundations of political pluralism, paving the ground for political action organised in harmony with the National Charter.

You have also relentlessly pursued matters to deal with the economic and financial issues through well-planned programmes, taking into consideration the higher national interests and pursuing political efforts related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem and the Madrid peace conference.

The peace process overtook all other considerations and required from us to direct our efforts to achieve the best result.

I would like to express my gratitude to you and your colleagues in organising the joint

(Continued on page 5)



## Masri's letter of resignation to King Hussein

# Masri: My government stood for change and sought to strengthen values of democracy, tolerance and contemporaneity

The following is an unofficial translation of Mr. Masri's letter of resignation to His Majesty the King:

Your Majesty,

I am honoured to submit to Your Majesty my true feelings of loyalty and allegiance and wish you continued success in shouldering the responsibility of protecting the rights of the Arab Nation and in safeguarding its interests.

Your Majesty has honoured me with trust in the government, following the endorsement of the National Charter which marked the beginning of the new stage in Jordan's political life and the democratic process in the wake of the Gulf crisis with its deep wounds that disrupted pan-Arab solidarity and left negative consequences on the Jordanian community.

Backed by Your Majesty, my government has sought to implement the contents of the Royal Charter to the government and the objectives which guided the government's endeavours in every domain and helped form the government's policy statement over various issues at this stage, aimed at pan-Arab, regional and international levels. The government's plans covered all legislative, political, social, economic, cultural and educational fields.

Since the first day of assuming responsibility, my government embarked on giving momentum to the process of change, at the national level, so that Jordan can cope with the challenges and can overcome the numerous difficulties which stood in the path of

progress and obstructed the release of creative work.

My government discovered that a great deal of accumulated obstacles had to be removed gradually and that a high sense of awareness and integrity and understanding of the social and economic changes has to materialise. The government had realised that for the change to take place, those seeking reform should start with themselves and with the institutions which they head in an atmosphere characterised by democracy and based on participation and sharing in the decision-making process. The government also believed in constructive criticism and respect for the other people's views and trust and respect of the national principles.

Despite the short period in office, the government, sought to carry out draft laws based on the provisions of the National Charter, especially in matters related to ending the martial law, opening the door for political pluralism, enhancing the pillars of constitutional freedom, creating a free climate for the press and publication. It also sought to ensure the prevalence of the law, the laying of the foundations of social justice, the strengthening of the country, protecting the bright image of the Kingdom and its national pride.

Your Majesty,

My government has exerted every possible effort to cement

the course of democracy and has practiced democracy in word and deed without raising inapplicable slogans to please some people. The government refused to enter into the arena of outbiddings and unorthodox democratic practices.

My government sought to enhance the principles of integrity and honesty, tolerance and reform and to lay out the concept of total commitment to the provisions of the Constitution in the form and spirit of the National Charter.

The government sought to encourage all people to work for the good of the country and in the service of the throne and democracy, drawing on Your Majesty's resolve and steadfastness and on the national unity and the country's national and historic commitment to the Arab causes.

My government was totally committed to achieve the highest possible level of coordination with the Palestinian brothers in the process of seeking a just, durable and comprehensive peace. The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has now reached a distinguished level based on the principles of fraternity, mutual confidence and the belief in the commitment to the national rights of the Palestinian people and the need for the implementation of the international legitimacy which guarantees Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem, the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and the right to self-determination in their own soil.

My government responded to the challenges facing Jordan and had to give attention to the historic responsibility of safeguarding the country's interests and to defend its future. My government had sought to achieve this out of its full awareness of the requirements to confront the developments and out of belief in its commitment to achieve justice and international legitimacy.

The government was keen on serving with clear sight and courageous decisions out of a deep feeling of responsibility which has characterised its performance as it strove hard to achieve administrative reform, the economic restructuring programme and healing the rifts in relations with other Arab countries.

As Jordan continues to face major challenges while pursuing the road to the future, and as the rules of democratic action along this road require close cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities to pave the way for the implementation of national plans and in view of the circumstances surrounding the past few months in our political life, followed with deep concern by the public, I feel honoured to submit to Your Majesty the resignation of my government in order to open the way for a new team to shoulder the responsibility and the trust under your guidance and directives.

My colleagues and I pledge to remain faithful soldiers in other areas. We pray that God may guide your steps.

## King's letter of acceptance of Masri's resignation

(Continued from page 4)

Jordanian-Palestinian participation in the Madrid conference which, ended with the best results that won the appreciation and admiration of the world.

As I accept your resignation, I wish you and your colleagues success in your new endeavours and express appreciation and pride in your service, your integrity, your honesty and your

keeness on safeguarding public interest. In all public posts you have proved to be capable of shouldering the trust and to rise to the occasion. In view of the experience you have gained during the premiership, and despite the fact that you serve as member of Parliament, we will continue to work with you, as our advisor, in all state affairs in the future.

## 'Settlements will be on the table'

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet Jews. Last September, in a move that enraged Israel and many of its American supporters, Mr. Bush engineered a delay until next year in the congressional debate over the aid request. He said it was too sensitive a subject at a time when the Middle East peace conference had yet to begin.

Mr. Shamir held talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Thursday.

The Bush administration has left open the possibility that it

may seek a second delay in action by Congress on the Israeli request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. In his first hearing before a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, new Assistant Secretary of State Edward Deregian was twice asked if the administration would again ask Congress to postpone a vote on the issue because it might complicate Mideast peace efforts. The loan guarantee request is expected to be raised when Congress reconvenes in January after a winter holiday recess.

## Sharif Zeid's letter of acceptance to King

(Continued from page 4)

stage of the Arab history and we will be guided by the principles and directives contained in the letter of designation which will continue to be guiding our democratic process. We will face the challenge of peace with fully confidence.

My success in paving the way for free elections came as a result of your guidance and directives. The National Charter came to reaffirm your keenness on building democracy and enhancing the political pluralism process in the country based on the provisions of the Constitution.

As I am honoured to bear this task, I wish to emphasise my determination and resolve to act in concert with your directives and under your wise and courageous leadership, especially in the participation in the peace process to seek a just settlement to the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We will not allow ourselves to

neglect the internal problems, especially matters related to democracy, political pluralism and legislations concerning them.

We will also give due attention to the economic and financial issues, will intensify the work and effort to overcome the economic and political consequences of the Gulf crisis and will try hard to restore relations and solidarity with Arab countries.

We will safeguard the national interests and will direct our efforts to overcome the negative effects of the Gulf crisis that affected our brotherly ties and our ties with the world.

My government will shoulder the responsibility at this crucial stage in our history and will consider the National Charter pact as the general framework for work in all fields and all fronts.

Your guidance and directives to the government will always guide my colleagues and me in our endeavour.

## World hails Ghali as U.N. chief

(Continued from page 1)

said it was "highly satisfied," proclaiming Mr. Ghali as a world-renowned strong politician and highly professional diplomat.

Dr. Ghali, declining to talk to journalists after his nomination, met German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn Friday.

"Good news from New York," Mr. Genscher said with a smile as he welcomed Dr. Ghali for talks on Yugoslavia and the Middle East.

Dr. Ghali would not talk to journalists.

"He does not want to talk because his appointment still has to be confirmed by the General Assembly," an Egyptian embassy

spokeswoman said.

Dr. Ghali has to be approved by the 166-nation General Assembly but this is considered a formality.

In Amman, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber voiced Jordan's satisfaction with the selection of Dr. Ghali.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abu Jaber described Dr. Ghali as a veteran Arab and international politician who has broad experience in politics.

He said Dr. Ghali will serve as the voice of the Third World countries at the U.N.

"Dr. Ghali embodies the rational voice which links between the Middle East and the world," he said.

Britain welcomed the U.N. election and offered Dr. Ghali full support. France, pleased at the appointment of a French-speaking U.N. chief, said he had "the caution, authority and will" to succeed.

Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, U.N. secretary-general from 1971 to 1981, said Dr. Ghali's appointment would boost the African continent in international politics.

Among those preserving an immediate silence were Iraq, target of U.N. sanctions and defeated in a U.N.-authorised war to reclaim Kuwait, and Israel, which accuses the U.N. of an anti-Zionist stance and wants it kept out of current Middle East peace-making efforts.

Mr. Ghali succeeds Javier Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian, in January for a five-year term, taking over at a time of rising prestige for the world body in the post-cold war era which has brought unprecedented super-power cooperation.

Global approval for Dr. Ghali focused on his talents.

French-educated, he is Egyptian deputy prime minister, a veteran diplomat and an architect of the 1978 Camp David accords that produced a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. He is a Christian married to a Jew.

Egypt, which campaigned hard for his appointment, was quick to hail the appointment as vindicating "sensible, moderate" policies.



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**YORK (R)** — Eighth seed Novotna of Czechoslovakia never wobbled into the semifinals of the Virginia Slims championships by stunning Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf 6-3 6-2 6-1 Thursday.

"It's unbelievable. It's so emotional to me I just can't believe it," said Novotna after crushing the second-seeded, two-time champion in the third set.

Novotna, who had beaten Graf only once in 12 previous encounters, at this year's Australian Open, was brilliant from the service line, especially in the final set when she dropped just two points on her serve.

"I was able to come back in the third set with a lot of great serves," said Novotna, who will face fourth-seeded, five-time

champion Martina Navratilova in the semifinals.

Earlier, Navratilova was able to do what Graf could not rebound from a miserable first set.

Navratilova kept alive her chance to break Chris Evert's record of 157 career titles this year by holding off fifth-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 1-6 6-4 6-2.

"Arantxa was like a house on fire. I don't think I have ever lost a set that quickly," Navratilova said of the 18-minute opening set. "I have played worse in a set but I ran into a juggernaut."

Graf, who ends her year with seven titles including her third Wimbledon crown, was equally impressed with her opponent's quick start.

[illegible]

"She's always had the talent to play very well... and she definitely improved her serve." A Novotna quickly built a 4-1 first-set lead and held on for 6-3. Graf came up with the lone break of the second set for 4-4 when Novotna made one of her few errors from the services line, double faulting at break point. The former world number one tenaciously held onto that advantage to send the dramatic contest into a deciding set.

The expectation that Graf would return to form and control the set faded quickly when Novotna blasted an ace to hold her first serve at 15 and broke the German in the next game.

Novotna, this year's Australian Open runner-up, just steamrolled Graf after that, breaking her again in the fourth game for 4-0 and holding serve at love for a commanding 5-0 lead.

Graf then served a love game of her own, won with consecutive aces, to avoid a shut-out, but it was too little, too late.

Novotna followed with yet another love game to end the one hour, 42 minute contest.

**By Aleen Bannayan**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN** — The first week of competition in the first division basketball championship ended Thursday with eight matches that seemed to forecast what the eventual standings would almost look like.

In the first of four games played Thursday, title-holders Al Ahli crushed newcomers to the division Al Karak, 164-26 with the first half ending 84-14 for Al Ahli. Al Hussein beat the other newcomer, Al Ashrafieh, with a win of 145-53 (half time 71-30 for Al Hussein).

In a more competitive match, Al Jaill scored a precious win of 89-66 over Al Jazira, although it seemed Al Jazira could put up a good fight in the first half which Al Jaill won 36-38.

In the fourth match of the day Al Orthodoxi scored an expected 110-73 win over Al Watani. The first half ended 64-34 for Al Orthodoxi.

In the four games played last Sunday Al Jazira scored a precious yet difficult 100-97 win over Al Watani; Al Jaill scored a convincing 90-76 win over Al Hussein; Al Orthodoxi beat Al Karak 128-16 and Al Ahli crushed Al Ashrafieh 143-35.

The first division basketball championship begins Sunday Nov. 17 and the teams will play an elimination round until Dec. 5 after which the first four teams will play a separate round to determine the champion and the top four while the rest of the

teams will play another round of their own to determine the ranks of the teams from 5-8th places.

The pressure now is on Al Ahli to retain the title even though they are playing without Nasser Bushnaq who helped them secure the title last season. Bushnaq is currently recovering from surgery and will be absent for at least another six weeks.

Rivals Al Orthodoxi seem determined and ready to snatch the title away. Al Jafli who finished third last season will certainly try to hold on to that standing and not lose it to ambitious Al Jazira.

Al Hussein and Al Watani who finished fifth and sixth last season will try to put up a good fight to improve their standings.

On the other hand it seems inevitable that the less experienced newcomers Al Karak and Al Ashrafiah will go back to the second division as it seems extremely difficult for them to score the necessary wins to enable them to stay in the first division.

The next four matches will be played Sunday as Al Karak meets Al Watani; Al Ahli clashes with Al Hussein; Al Ashrafiah plays Al Jazira and Al Orthodoxi meets Al Jafli.

The matches are being played at Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi grounds in Amman, as well as at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

ATLANTA (AP) — Evander Holyfield, who does nothing but win, finds himself in a no-win situation approaching Saturday's heavyweight title fight against stand-in Bert Cooper.

In a fight that seems little more than an exhibition before the hometown fans, Holyfield has little to gain outside his \$6 million payday.

"If he knocks him out in four rounds, they say he fought a bum," trainer Lou Duva said. "If this guy makes Evander look bad, they ask what happened."

So why is Holyfield, assuming he won't desecrate for the money, even fighting?

"Right now, I just want to fight anybody," Holyfield said. "I've been training 10 weeks. It's almost like if I don't get a fight, I don't get paid for my work."

Holyfield is an overwhelming favorite to retain his undisputed heavyweight championship against Cooper, who a week ago was resting on his laurels for having knocked out a fighter named Joe Hipp on Oct. 18 and had no idea he'd been fighting for boxing's blaziest title.

next decade," Duva said. "It was going to be spectacular. We would have found out if Tyson was the baddest guy in the world or if Evander was a good, good heavyweight. How does Evander prove he is a good fighter if he doesn't fight a Tyson."

Certainly not against Cooper, who got his chance only when the first substitute, Italy's Francesco Damiani, injured an ankle in training last week.

Despite the promoter's attempts to portray Cooper as another Tyson, the reality is that Cooper had lost four of his previous six fights — three by knock-out — before embarking on a modest four-fight winning streak this year against a collection of unknowns to up his record to 26-7 with 23 knockouts. Cooper will be paid \$750,000 for fighting Holyfield.

The night Holyfield stopped Douglas to win the title, Cooper was knocked out in the second round by Riddick Bowe on the undercard.

"This is the chance of a lifetime for Cooper," Duva said. "Strange things have happened. You

would have thought Douglas would beat Tyson in Tokyo?"

Holyfield, who hasn't lost since his controversial disqualification at the hands of Kevin Barry in the 1984 Olympics, has won 26 times as a pro, with eight of the wins coming after he moved up to the heavyweight ranks three years ago.

His biggest problem Saturday night may be the mental adjustment from fighting a huge fight against Tyson to taking on a journeyman like Cooper.

"I was disappointed," Holyfield said of the Tyson cancellation. "But in boxing you get up for each and every fight. Some fighters just bring a little more to the table and are a little more dangerous than others."

Duva said he hopes the excitement of fighting before thousands of his hometown fans at the Omni Arena will help motivate his fighter.

"The danger is he will come in flat," Duva said. "My job is to motivate him, have him ready. I may hit him over the head with the stool if he doesn't respond."

**SYDNEY (R)** — Light-flyweight Eric Griffin, disqualified from competing in the 1988 Seoul Olympics after testing positive for cocaine prior to the games, won the first gold medal of the World Amateur Boxing Championships Friday.

Griffin defeated Rogelio Marcelo 36-18 on points for his second world title and his fourth victory over the Cuban in the past two years.

Germany, fighting for the first time as a united team, picked up their first medal when European champion Marco Rudolph beat the wily Soviet southpaw Artur Gregorian in the lightweight division.

One of only two American boxers in the finals, Griffin said he was on target to win the gold medal at next year's Barcelona Olympics and would then turn professional.

"Two golds at the World Championships and gold at Barcelona mean I have nothing more to prove as an amateur," he told reporters.

The Cuban team, hoping to win six gold medals in the 12 divisions, had a disastrous start with bantamweight Henrique Carrion losing the second final against Bulgaria's European champion Serafim Todorov.

Todorov, beaten by Carrion three times in recent major tournaments, was ecstatic after being declared an easy 25-5 points winner.

He picked off the Cuban at will with swift left jabs and counter-punches in the first two rounds.

Gonzalez on the way to the final, was well behind in the first two rounds and though he stormed back in the last, Rudolph took the fight 19-14.

The Cubans, the kings of amateur boxing, lost two of the four finals they were contesting and it was left to their classy heavyweight champion Felix Savon to salvage their reputation.

The Soviet Union, vying with Cuba for boxing supremacy, lost both its final bouts. Apart from Gregorian, middleweight Alexander Lebniaz was beaten by Italy's Tommaso Russo.

Cuban Savon won his third world title with a 39-16 battering of European champion Arnold Vanderloef of the Netherlands.

The six remaining finals will be fought Saturday, with Cuba featuring in two bouts and trying to equal the tally of four golds in 1989.

**WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TANNAH HIRSCH**

## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠6 ♠AQ93 ♠A6 ♠AQJ874  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 NT Pass  
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠853 ♠J763 ♠83 ♠K85  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K6 ♠KQJ1073 ♠K ♠K872  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West  
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♠ Pass  
Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A103 ♠7oid ♠KQ43 ♠A98764  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q7 ♠K6 ♠EJ5 ♠AKQJ1063  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKQ76 ♠KQJ63 ♠6 ♠QJ  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

**FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 1991**  
*Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation*

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Show that you are able to reduce those fine and witty comments you have been making to a saleable and efficient basis. Expect to receive the cooperation of all concerned after you explain the details.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can have a very accurate awareness just what is going on about you and what is expected of you if you are still for a little while and listen to your intuitions.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You need to have a better awareness of what is the true relationship between you and others and its important you let them know your views.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you face you whether as a business or whether you like them or not can now be handled in a most efficient manner.

dental treatments or the errands that are on your list and you've been postponing.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is your day and evening to get at making those repairs, doing that painting that is so good for you and that is therapeutic as well as improve home value.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You certainly can get most anything you want if you will be in tune with those about you and show you have true consideration and thoughtfulness.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get at finding that information you need so badly but do it in an unobstructive and uncontentious manner so you do not cause fire of a bigwig.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you would like for good friends and warm winters is very much now.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your need now is to have some relief from the pressures that have been yours and in your newspaper you find TV, motion picture suggestions of value.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Think out some plan by which you can make you own clan happier and your home that haven of rest that is so necessary for one's peace of mind, comfort.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Get out in the world now for the appointments, the medical or

**make a point to join them at social gathering for fun.**

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can be quite confused now about what to do in order to gain more prominence in your sphere of activity so think about how to improve your standing in community.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You now find that you would be wise to study the school of philosophy that attracts you the most and to engage in some educational research.

**By Harris**

HOW CAN I MAKE COFFEE WHEN I NEED A CUP OF COFFEE FIRST TO WAKE ME UP SO I CAN MAKE SOME COFFEE??



## WHAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

**JUMBLE®** by Henri Arnold and Bob I

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



**BYMAL**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

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**RARIF**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

**LENZOZ**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

**SPITTY**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

THE BEST WAY TO EXPRESS CONTEMPT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE OTHER GUY IS BIGGER

Print answer here: 

**ACROSS**

- 1 Avenue
- 5 Perry of song
- 9 Spring month
- 14 Killer whale
- 15 Placer
- Hershter
- 16 Stack
- 17 National symbol
- 19 Refrain syllables
- 20 Water pistol shot
- 21 Physical ailment
- 23 Scissors action
- 25 Sunday singers
- 26 Native of Celestia
- 30 Last
  - Rosenkavalier
  - 34 Racing shell
  - 36 Ms Moorehead
  - 37 Letter adjunct abbr.
  - 39 Fisherman's needs

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**Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:**

44 Dividing members	6 Asen.	ASER	ASER
46 Cr. wolf	7 Canis lupus	WOLF	WOLF
47 Insignificant facts	6 Of oil	FACTS	FACTS
49 Sol. weapon	8 P.A. city	SOL	SOL
51 Prison rooms	10 Cattle	PRISON	PRISON
53 PA part	11 Coyote's elusive quarry	PAID	PAID
54 Endless	10 Man or Wright	PAINT	PAINT
57 Wooded clearing	12 Fox's father	PAINT	PAINT
61 Cereal grain	18 Kovacs or Pyle	PAINT	PAINT
62 Ancient	22 Haggard	PAINT	PAINT
Mariner's bene	24 Cattle breed	PAINT	PAINT
64 Stable	26 Dog tag for	PAINT	PAINT
65 Colours	27 Pavlov's	PAINT	PAINT
(Max. president)	29 Domingo	PAINT	PAINT
69 Cozy home	36 Long-distance	PAINT	PAINT
67 Trip functions	38	PAINT	PAINT
68 Lique	39 Tatter	PAINT	PAINT
69 Crude minerals	41 Oscar de la —	PAINT	PAINT
	42 Lamb product	PAINT	PAINT
DOWN	43 Wagon	PAINT	PAINT
1 High toasts	38 Bargaining	PAINT	PAINT
2 Kruks's land	43 Distances	PAINT	PAINT
3 Lawyers' go	40 Use a telescope	PAINT	PAINT
4	41 Power	PAINT	PAINT
5 Rear jacket flaps	42	PAINT	PAINT

48 Lique base: abor.  
50 " — " — evill"  
52 Bart or Ringo.  
55 Bangkok native.  
56 Two-bass.  
59 Active one.  
60 Being.  
63 Jumbo jets.

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CLOSE YOUR MOUTH, DOG, OR I'LL FLOSS YOUR TEETH WITH THIS BLANKET!

THAT WAS A GOOD ONE..

SCHULZ

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TCH! I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED --

HER MUM'S STAYING WITH US AT THE MOMENT. NEVER MISSES A CHANCE.

I KNOW, LAD, I'VE HAD SOME

ALWAYS GETS THE LAST WORD IN.

THEY PUT THE FIRST WORD IN, TOO.

— Dave Coverly

هكذا في الأصل



## Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 11/11/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 21/11/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7990	1.7940
Deutsche Mark	1.5998	1.6035
Swiss Franc	1.4190	1.4250
French Franc	5.4615	5.4805
Japanese Yen	129.70	129.55
European Currency Unit	1.2760	1.2720

**Interbank Interest Rates** Date: 21/11/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	4.87	4.87	5.00
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.37	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.37	9.37	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.56	7.81	7.81	7.81
French Franc	9.56	9.62	9.50	9.45
Japanese Yen	6.25	6.18	5.93	5.75
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.75	9.75

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

**Precious Metals** **Date:** 21/11/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm <sup>6</sup>	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	363.60	6.95	Silver	4.08	.086

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin** Date: 21/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6790	0.6810
Sterling Pound	1.2165	1.2226
Deutsche Mark	0.4229	0.4250
Swiss Franc	0.4766	0.4790
French Franc	0.1238	0.1244
Japanese Yen	0.5232	0.5258
Dutch Guilder	0.3753	0.3772
Swedish Krona	0.1158	0.1164
Italian Lira*	0.0560	0.0563
Belgian Franc	0.02055	0.02065

**Other Currencies** Date: 21/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7720	1.7780
Lebanese Lira*	0.0770	0.0775
Saudi Riyal	0.1807	0.1813
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1840	0.1849
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7380	1.7460
UAE Dirham	0.1840	0.1849
Greek Drachma*	0.3725	0.3760
Cypriot Pound	1.4836	1.5016

**CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets** December 31, 1990 - 100

Index	19/11/91	Close	20/11/91	Close
All-Share	124.56		124.66	
Banking Sector	104.94		104.91	
Insurance Sector	126.52		125.95	
Industry Sector	153.80		154.10	
Services Sector	136.65		137.25	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7925/35	U.S. dollar	1.365/70
One U.S. dollar	1.5925/35	Canadian dollar	1.7945/55
	1.4170/77	Deutsche marks	1.4170/77
	32.78/82	Dutch guilders	5.4400/50
	1204/1205	Swiss francs	1204/1205
	129.70/80	Belgian francs	5.8270/8320
	5.8270/8320	French francs	6.2730/80
	6.2730/80	Italian lire	6.1980/2030
	6.1980/2030	Japanese yen	367.25/367.75
	367.25/367.75	Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

## Prices soar in Romania Finance minister predicts austerity budget for 1992

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — A top official has painted a dismal picture of the country's economy, saying the government will have only half the money it needs to meet planned budget expenses next year.

Finance Minister George Danilescu made the forecast as Romanians struggled with drastic rises in energy and transport costs that are rippling through the entire economy.

Mr. Danilescu said the country has only 500 billion lei (\$2.8 billion) for next year's budget, which is about half of what it needs.

"The budget for 1992 will probably be an austerity budget," he said.

Mr. Danilescu, whose National Liberal Party joined Premier Theodor Stolojan's new coalition government last month, favours speedy reforms as Romania shifts from communism to the free market.

But he acknowledged that benefits will come slowly.

"We hope the reforms will yield results, but we are not deluding ourselves that these will be visible in 1992," he said.

Mr. Danilescu said industrial productivity and production declined by about 20 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, during the past year. Sales fell 28 per cent in the state sector, which still far outstrips the private sector in volume.

Romania's trade deficit has widened to \$1.2 billion, a figure that well exceeds the country's hard currency reserves.

Only about a quarter of \$2 billion in foreign credits that had been expected from Western creditors has arrived so far.

Nonetheless, the government is

pushing ahead with reforms, which include scrapping price subsidies.

Last week it more than quadrupled the gasoline price to 130 lei (70 cents) a litre, bringing it in line with the world market. But Romania's average monthly wage of 10,000 lei is not enough to fill two automobile tanks.

The independent Appress news agency reported that some state-run road, rail and air transport companies are hiking rates by up to six times as a result of the rise in fuel costs.

A Bucharest-Berlin train ticket rose to 17,000 lei this week from 7,000 lei previously.

The agency predicted prices on food and other basics could triple in the near future. But Mr. Danilescu said overall short-term inflation should not exceed 60 per cent.

Inflation over the past year has been about 250 per cent, while salaries have nearly doubled. Mr. Danilescu said buying power decreased by 19 per cent this year before the latest price rises.

The government currently is negotiating with unions over an indexing scheme to partially offset inflation by linking salaries to prices.

Despite the economic hardship, Mr. Stolojan's new government appeared to be winning support in the independent media. The opposition weekly "22" wrote this week that the reforms "meet the requirements of all political orientations."

Such supportive tone is in sharp contrast to the rancor that characterized media-government relations under ex-premier Petre Roman, who was forced from office by rioting miners in September.

## Experts point to Soviet oil to lessen reliance on M.E.

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (Agencies) — The chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund says the European Community (EC) was working on an energy charter that would allow the Soviet Union to replace the Middle East as its main supplier of oil.

"The most important and most dangerous objective of this charter is the gradual replacement of Middle East crude oil by the Soviet oil especially after the recent Gulf events," the chairman, Osama Fakih, said at a gathering of Arab economy experts.

He said the EC member states planned to enter the oil market of the Soviet Union through an energy cooperation agreement.

They also planned to flood eastern Europe with advanced energy exploration and production technology and offer international expertise to the Soviet Union to upgrade and improve its energy structure. The charter would be finalised before the end of the year, he said.

The Soviet Union is the world's largest oil producer but its output levels have dropped by 12 per cent this year to reach less than 11 million barrels per day, Mr. Fakih estimated.

Oil revenue is the backbone of the Gulf economy. The oil-rich states of the region also depend on that income to bankroll smaller Arab countries without significant natural resources.

Western Europe takes about 40 per cent of its fuel needs from the Gulf Arab countries.

Mr. Fakih urged the Arab oil-producing states to continue efforts to ensure stability of the world oil market, and their share of it, and to reduce their reliance on oil revenue by diversifying their economic base.

scored the importance of the Arab oil for the industrialised world and "proved the inevitable cooperation between oil producing and consuming countries."

A top Western industry executive said Gulf oil producers must give foreign firms more incentives if they want to attract capital and technology.

Mark Moody-Stuart, managing director of Royal Dutch Shell group of companies, told a conference in Bahrain that reluctance by Gulf producers to allow foreign firms to invest directly in their crude production would prompt big foreign firms to exploit opportunities elsewhere.

"The question is essentially that of unwillingness on the part of those countries, Mr. Moody-Stuart said.

"There has been a great deal of talk about readiness to entertain investment in one form or another and proposals of various sorts have been put forward," he said.

"But as far as I know no agreement has been reached which would be sufficient to attract more than a small minority in the industry — and those who have made agreements are probably drawn mainly by the hope of future changes," he said.

Mr. Moody-Stuart said if the Gulf states — which straddle about 65 per cent of the world's known oil reserves — took the input of foreign technology and capital the results would be "profound."

"As long as this area remains effectively closed to upstream investment risk capital, the industry will restlessly seek other avenues for investment," he said.

Mr. Moody-Stuart said one country in which foreign firms saw tremendous upstream potential was the Soviet Union, whose own production was approx-

imately equal to that of OPEC although most was consumed domestically.

"This production, faltering as it may be at present, is backed by enormous reserves and exploration potential. The Soviet Union is a factor to be reckoned with," he said.

Senior Western oil industry executives said Gulf oil producers must give foreign firms more incentives if they want to attract the capital and technology needed to expand their capacity in the 1990s.

New opportunities for exploration and investment opening up elsewhere — especially in the Soviet Union — could divert foreign investment to areas where rewards are greater, the executives said.

Describing the 1990s as a "decade of choice" for international investment, they warned that the huge reserves of Gulf producers and low cost of exploiting them might not be enough incentive.

Roger Abel, Conoco Inc. vice president and general manager Exploration Production USSR, said intense competition among the Soviet republics, particularly Russia, could lead to very favourable terms for foreign oil firms. Undiscovered reserves in the Soviet Union could be twice the size of those in Saudi Arabia, which has a quarter of the world total, he said.

"The point is, attractive terms could shift investments to the new Russian state at the expense of other producing countries," he added.

"Couple this with the apparent opening of doors in South America and a number of Middle East countries and a reversal of the trend of the 1970s becomes possible — could we be headed for an investor's market?" he said.

doors to foreign exploration to boost output while Kuwait's Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Raqba said last week the emirate was negotiating with at least one foreign company to help restore its crippled oil industry. Neither country is offering foreigners equity.

Iraq, still under a U.N. embargo, has recently invited foreign companies to join in its oilfield development schemes, hoping to overcome its cash crisis.

Algeria is debating ambitious measures to exploit its oil, gas and mineral wealth.

But Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest exporter of crude, had traditionally kept the door shut on upstream involvement by foreign companies. Oil Minister Hisham Nazer has not ruled out the possibility of a reversal in policy.

Industry sources say Riyadh, which raised crude output by a dramatic 55 per cent during the Gulf crisis, plans to spend around \$20 billion to expand capacity to 10 million barrels per day by the end of 1994 from 8.5 million now. It is virtually the only oil producer with any spare capacity at present and most analysts expect its dominance to grow as world demand for oil increases in the 1990s.

But many executives at the conference said the effect of new exploration frontiers — albeit in more costly and difficult areas like Siberia — should not be underestimated.

"The nineties may be a decade of international choice such as the industry has not been offered since the sixties — its resources will tend to go where the rewards as well as the needs are greatest," Hugh Norton, chairman of British Petroleum Co. PLC's B.P. Asia Pacific Ltd said.

## Nearly half a million Americans file new unemployment claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing new unemployment claims surged close to the half-million mark in early November, approaching the bleakest levels of the recession, the government said Thursday.

After stabilising over the summer, the nation's job market is now apparently deteriorating again, at least based on how many out-of-work Americans are new to unemployment lines in any given week.

Those numbers, after hitting an eight-year high of 540,000 in March, improved to around 400,000 in July. Now they're back to the half-million mark — a worrisome indication, analysts said, that layoffs may be wearing on and that the nation's unemployment rate may be headed higher, too.

For the week ending Nov. 9, the initial-claims level jumped by 39,000 to 493,000, the highest it's been since April 20, the Labour Department said. It followed a rise of 33,000 the week before.

Some of the layoffs in early November could have been blizzard-related slowdowns in construction, analysts said. But the weakness was broader, hitting states nationwide and workers in a cross-section of industries.

"We're still talking about a number which has to be viewed as ominous," said Robert Dederick, chief economist at the Northern Trust Co. of Chicago.

"People are battenning down the hatches again," Mr. Dederick said of companies announcing more layoffs. "The expansion started out subdued. It levelled out in the summer. These numbers suggest the recovery has stalled out and may have slipped back into reverse."

The Bush administration sought to put the blame for dismal job conditions on Democrats in Congress.

Labour Secretary Lynn Martin said that if Congress had passed President Bush's capital gains tax cut, banking legislation and a jobs-producing highway bill, the unemployment claims number "would have been dramatically lower."

Pressed on whether the U.S. economy has pulled out of recession, Mr. Martin said:

"I know this: Too many people are out of work. There seems to be a consensus — we are in a trough but we're moving up."

## Emirates buys two Airbus

DUBAI (R) — Emirates Airlines has ordered two Airbus A310-300 passenger planes, taking to seven the number of airbuses it has on order from the European consortium, a statement from the airline said.

Emirates, owned by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, said the two newly ordered aircraft would enter service in mid-1992 at the same time as three from a previous order.

Emirates, set up as an independent airline six years in a market previously dominated by the regional airline Gulf Air, gave no cost estimate for the order. The Emirates statement quoted its chairman, Ahmad Ibn Saeed Al Maktoum as saying the new aircraft would play a major role in the airline's plans for growth in 1992.

Emirates airlines is also expected to announce its decision soon on long-haul widebody jets — seven firm orders and seven options — for delivery beginning in 1995.

## Seasons Greetings

Violette Miraziz has the pleasure to invite you to her First Table Covers and Ornaments Exhibition.

Held at the occasion of Xmas at the reception of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC)

During Nov. 24, 25th, 26th from 8 - 2 a.m. and 4 - 8 p.m.

## Scandinavian Ladies of Amman

under the patronage of HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan present SCANDINAVIAN ART'n CRAFT exhibition and sale on Sunday November 24th 1991 at Amman Marriott Hotel (from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Xmas Offer GRAPHITE TENNIS RACKETS JD 25 WADI SAQRA BOOKSHOP below Philadelphia Hotel bridge

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Tickets are available at: — Al Hussein Sports City — Phoenix Cafeteria and Gallery, Gardens Street. — Zahrat Al Mada'en Mill — Jubilee Circle. — Abba and Antar Stores, Jabal Luweibdeh. — Safeway International. — Al Tawil Tours Agency, near Safeway. — Geneva Coffee Shop. — Music Box / Al Swellityeh, the Eighth Circle. — Al Shallal Restaurant, the Gardens Street. — Rana Pizza, opposite Al Ra'i Newspaper. — Rawan Wool, Gardens Street-Qa'san Centre.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The University of Jordan is holding an exhibition for selling foreign books on various subjects at the Exhibition Hall-Deanship of Student Affairs with beginning Saturday, November 23rd, 1991. Prices of books will range from 500-1000 fils. Invitation is open to all those who are interested

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# Yugoslav army steps up pressure in east Croatia

**BELGRADE (R)** — The Yugoslav army attacked the defences of Osijek in east Croatia Friday as it stepped up military pressure on the rebel republic after the capture of Vukovar.

Osijek was bombed during the night after Tanjug News Agency said Thursday that the Serbian-led army captured the villages of Ernestinovo and Laslovo, which command the town's southern approaches.

Zagreb Radio accused the army of also attacking villages around the Adriatic port of Zadar and more fighting was reported around Nova Gradiska in central Croatia.

Tanjung reported fresh agreements between Croatia and the army to permit federal forces to leave their blockaded barracks along the coast and return to other parts of Yugoslavia.

It said these were signed in Split, Sibenik and Divulje. Negotiations continued to secure the departure of troops from barracks in Zagreb.

Croatian radio confirmed Ernestinovo had been over-run but said fighting was continuing and vowed that the village would be retaken. "We can expect its liberation in the next few days," it added.

The radio denied Laslovo was captured but admitted that it had been encircled and that Osijek itself and two towns further west, Belisce and Valpovo, were attacked during the night.

Osijek lies 30 kilometres north of Vukovar which fell with heavy loss of life to the army this week after a three month siege.

The defeat of Vukovar has enabled the army to switch resources to the fighting around Osijek. Serbian Television Thursday evening showed a column of tanks and other armoured vehicles heading in its direction from Vukovar.

Croatian radio said attacks on Osijek continued throughout the night forcing its inhabitants to seek refuge in shelters despite cold and frequent power cuts.

The army has seized a third of Croatia since the government in Zagreb declared the republic's independence from Yugoslavia in June.

The move is opposed by the 600,000 Serb minority among Croatia's 4.5 million population. Serbs have begun to populate captured areas where up to half a million Croats have been forced to flee their homes.

Nearly 400 wounded people from Vukovar are in Croatian hospitals after a two-day, 300-kilometre ordeal on the road.

Buses and trucks filled with more than 2,000 other refugees came with them on a tortuous route through Serbia and Bosnia, taken to avoid the fighting west of the fallen Croatian town.

The wounded, who had suffered appalling conditions in Vukovar hospital, arrived in Djakov, 200 kilometres east of Zagreb.

They were then being sent to several nearby towns. More than 100 sick children will be brought to Zagreb for treatment.

Tanjung said two patients died on the journey from a Serbian town where they had spent the night.

The International Red Cross said it evacuated about 60 patients, left behind by the convoy, from Vukovar hospital Thursday, and would retain a presence in the town for now.

Vukovar is completely destroyed and bodies of civilians litter its streets.

United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance met Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic in the republic's capital Sarajevo Thursday before talks in Belgrade with Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Vance is in Yugoslavia to assess the chances of sending in U.N. peacekeeping forces as Serbia and Croatia want.

"It is inappropriate to talk about sending peacekeeping troops to Yugoslavia as long as the violence continues," Tanjug quoted him as saying after the talks with Mr. Milosevic.

Meanwhile the breakaway Republic of Slovenia says it is hit hardest by European Community sanctions to force peace on war-torn Yugoslavia, even though it is not involved in the current fighting.

## Troops fan out across Punjab as elections near

**CHANDIGARH, India (Agencies)** — Armed soldiers have fanned out across Punjab trying to contain Sikh militancy as elections near, a spokesman said.

The original vote in the spring had been called off after 20 candidates were killed by Sikh militants.

Some 20,000 soldiers, carrying automatic rifles stood at road crossings and drove through the rich farming state in northwestern India, trying, the government said, to "create confidence" among the people before February's state-wide elections.

The troops deployed Thursday have sweeping powers to search and detain anyone. Searches would be carried out by the paramilitary and the army could be called in if necessary, the spokesman said on conditions that he not be identified further.

The government on Wednesday declared three of the state's regions as "disturbed areas," which permits it to arrest people there without a warrant.

The remaining nine districts had already been brought under the act.

At least 2,000 Sikh militants have been killed in this year fighting security forces in their quest for an independent homeland.

The militants say they are discriminated against by India's Hindu majority. Sikhs make up only 2.2 per cent of the country's 844 million people, but they have a slight majority over Hindus in Punjab.

The federal government, which took over Punjab after dismissing the state government in 1987, had promised to hold elections by Feb. 15.

Meanwhile, 18 members of a single Sikh family gathering for a wedding were gunned down in their home, some hauled from hiding places and killed in cold blood, the groom, who narrowly escaped death, said Friday.

Indian police said gunmen Thursday night killed 18 members of the family of Sikh militant Jagir Singh, including five women and three children, near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, apparently over a private feud.

Gurmej Singh, who was to have been married Friday and is the younger brother of Jagir, told Reuters that five gunmen — Piara Singh, three of his sons and another man — entered the family house where a wedding party was under way.

"First they abused everybody, then they opened fire. Everybody ran for shelter, but they went through the house dragging people from hiding places and shooting them in cold blood," Mr. Gurmej said.

He said he fled outside and survived by hiding behind a woodpile.

Piara Singh and one of his sons had been arrested for the killings, police said. Two more of Piara's sons were being sought for taking part.

Police said Piara and militant Jagir Singh had been enemies for the past two years following a battle for control of a Gurdwara, or Sikh temple, in the village of Baserkhi Bhini, where both families lived.

Jagir Singh was suspected of involvement in the killing two months ago of Piara's Singh's nephew and the attack on Jagir's family might have been in revenge, police said.

## Bush signs civil rights law

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President George Bush has signed a new civil rights law with guarantees for women and minorities, ending a two-year struggle with Congress over whether the legislation encouraged the use of quotas in hiring for jobs.

Mr. Bush signed the measure in a ceremony overshadowed by a furor over a proposed presidential order that would have ended preferential hiring and promotions for women and minorities in the civil service. After circulating the order late Wednesday, the White House changed and eliminated the most controversial provisions.

Government policies in this area are often followed by private business.

The new law is the result of a battle to reverse decisions by the Supreme Court that interpreted previous laws in ways that made it harder for people to win lawsuits on the ground that they had been discriminated against. The fight was between businesses anxious to avoid lawsuits and people who advocated greater job and hiring protections.

The law sets standards for employers to demonstrate that hiring practices which result in unintentional discrimination are a business necessity. On the other hand, it also prohibits adjustment of tests to boost the scores of minorities on tests given to prospective employees.

It establishes a new fair employment office within the Senate as the first step in an administrative process for complaints filed by Senate employees. There are no similar provisions for House of Representatives employees, who already have a complaint apparatus.

A furor arose overnight over the proposed presidential order, which is distinct from the bill approved by Congress and now signed into law by the president. Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Thursday that the statement on the presidential order was being completely changed. But he refused to rule out the possibility that Mr. Bush would order elimination of racial preference policies later.

Civil rights activists who saw the proposed presidential directive Wednesday night said it would have reversed progress toward civil rights goals by blocking any government programme that give women or minorities preference in hiring, promotion or other policies.

The statement was written for Mr. Bush to deliver at the signing ceremony. The White House insisted Mr. Bush had not read the draft, prepared by White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray, before it was distributed to federal agencies.

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Bush late Wednesday night ordered sections of the document rewritten because "it was being misinterpreted."

But the spokesman said the changes were substantive and would eliminate sections ordering termination of federal programmes and practices that encourage racial preferences and so-called "set asides," such as government contracts for minority businesses.

"We support preferences and set asides as long as they're consistent with the law," Mr. Fitzwater said.

But he declined to say if the administration believes those programmes should remain unchanged.

## Jakarta pledges objective probe of Timor shooting

**JAKARTA (R)** — Indonesia Friday promised a full investigation into the shooting of mourners by Indonesian soldiers at an East Timor cemetery, the outgoing Dutch ambassador to Indonesia said.

Godert de Vos Van Steenwijk said Vice President Sudharmono had told him that "he personally would see to it that the investigation would be thorough and objective."

"(The) vice president has been extremely positive in saying that he fully realises the concern of the international community because it is not only Europe, it is also America and other parts of the world," the ambassador told reporters after his farewell visit to Mr. Sudharmono Friday.

Some reports say up to 180 people were killed when Indonesian troops opened fire on mourners in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor nearly two weeks ago.

The army, which puts the death toll at 119, blames a misunderstanding and says some in the crowd of 3,500 had provoked the shooting.

## Head of Philippine supreme court joins presidential race

**MANILA (R)** — The head of the Philippine Supreme Court Friday threw his hat into the ring to join the already congested list of contenders vying to succeed President Corason Aquino in elections next May.

Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, 64, was carried on the shoulders of cheering supporters after announcing his candidacy, saying the nation's survival was at stake.

In a speech launching his campaign, Mr. Fernan promised a strong, decisive government that would promote investment, create jobs, combat widespread poverty and eliminate corruption.

Mr. Fernan, who has the support of the powerful Osmena clan in his native Cebu and the influential Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, joins an already crowded field of at least eight possible contenders.

Politicians have warned that unless some drop out, the elections could be inconclusive, with no candidate securing a convincing majority, and opening the way to possible military intervention.

Mr. Fernan launched his candidacy at a time of political flux in the Philippines, where the mainstream opposition Nacionalista Party has fragmented and the ruling LDP party appears in danger of being split by defections in the run-up to the polls.

"Unless we get hold of ourselves, we're on a runaway bobsled down the mountain to anarchy," said Maximino Soliven, publisher of the Philippine Star newspaper. Mr. Fernan had made his move too late, he added.

While Mr. Fernan is believed to have the blessing of Mrs. Aquino, he has launched his candidacy outside the traditional party structure, and must organise a political machine within the six months until the elections.

Most politicians regard the elections as crucial to the future of the Philippines, which had failed to match the impressive growth of neighbouring Asian economies, and remains politically divided, with the feudal-style elite blocking real reform and the army divided.

The main contenders to succeed Mrs. Aquino, who was swept to power in a 1986 popular revolt, include her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel, former Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, Senate President Jovito Salonga, and popular film idol Joseph Estrada.

Mrs. Aquino, who restored democracy in the heavily indebted country after ending the 20-year rule of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, says she will not run for a second term, but the ex-president's widow Imelda Marcos remains a wild card.

## Cheney increases pressure on N. Korea in nuclear row

**TOKYO (R)** — The United States and Japan have replaced talk of the Soviet threat in Asia with the "North Korea threat" in a joint drive to persuade Pyongyang to abandon its reported plans to develop nuclear weapons.

The very real danger of North Korea's nuclear proliferation is now the number one threat to security in North East Asia, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told a news conference Friday.

Mr. Cheney arrived in Tokyo from Seoul where he announced that the two countries agreed to postpone the second phase of U.S. troop withdrawal from South Korea because of suspicions that North Korea was going ahead with a nuclear weapons programme.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe welcomed the decision Friday, saying it would put pressure on North Korea to open up its nuclear facilities to inspection. Mr. Watanabe told a separate news conference.

Japanese Vice Defence Minister Akira Hiyoshi, speaking at a newspaper symposium Thursday, also called North Korea's reported plans "Japan's biggest threat" because most of the country would come within range of the improved ground-to-ground Scud-B missiles known to be in North Korea's arsenals.

Mr. Cheney said the issue was not only a regional matter. "Beyond the peninsula, North Korea's 40-year history of aggression, terrorism, and irresponsible weapons sales adds to the concern over its potential possession of nuclear weapons and materials," he said.

Mr. Cheney, however, refused to say whether or not Washington was considering future military action against North Korea to destroy the nuclear facilities.

Mr. Cheney said he did not rule out the possibility that South Korea and Japan would buy advanced missile-defence systems, the same type used during the Gulf war.

He also called attention to the importance of the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme — the "Star Wars" space-based missile defence system. Congress recently approved a substantial part of the funding for the plan, to be completed by the end of the decade.

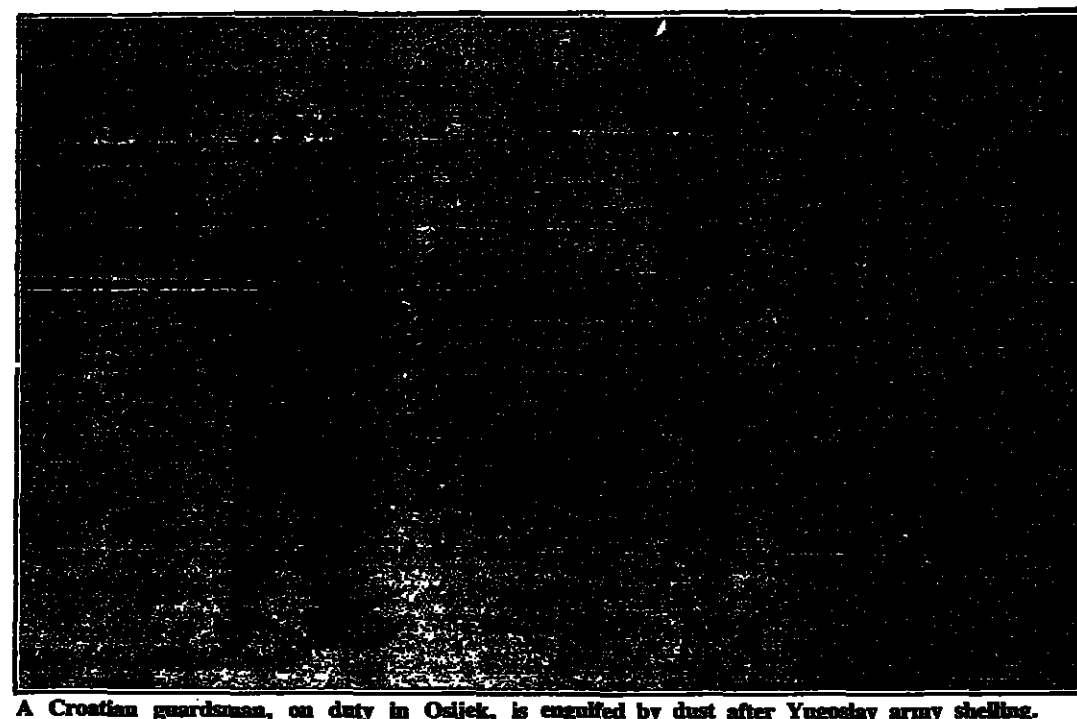
North Korea, a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has refused to international inspection of its nuclear facilities at the Yongbyon plant, 95 kilometres north of Pyongyang, and denied it was making nuclear weapons.

Japan has made international inspection of the plant a requirement in normalisation talks with North Korea under way since last year.

In Seoul, the newspaper Dong-A Ilbo reported that the North Korean government had already decided to allow inspection of its facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency but had yet to make the decision public.

Meanwhile, North Korea angrily denounced Friday the signing in Seoul of a U.S.-South Korean "wartime support agreement," saying it made "the provocation of an adventurous war against the North a fait accompli."

Pyongyang's official newspaper Rodong Sinmun called the accord "an aggressive and predatory war agreement which gives the United States a free hand to further strengthen its military domination over South Korea," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.



A Croatian guardsman, on duty in Osijek, is engulfed by dust after Yugoslav army shelling.

## Sihanouk thanks France for peace role

**PHNOM PENH (R)** — A beaming Prince Norodom Sihanouk, recently returned from long exile, staged a surprise welcome for French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas Friday to thank France for helping to bring peace to Cambodia.

Mr. Dumas, who arrived in Phnom Penh in the morning, is the first minister from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to visit Cambodia since its rival factions signed a formal end to 13 years of civil war in Paris on Oct. 23.

The accord paved the way for Prince Sihanouk to return to Phnom Penh last week. He had not seen the city since fleeing ahead of invading Vietnamese troops who installed the current government in early 1979.

"It is a great honour to welcome France back on our sacred soil," Prince Sihanouk said when he met Mr. Dumas on the steps of a pavilion in his royal palace, which was donated by 19th century French Emperor Napoleon III. Prince Sihanouk was not scheduled to meet Mr. Dumas until Saturday.

The white colonial-style building was built in France and shipped to Cambodia when it was a French protectorate.

Prince Sihanouk was crowned king of Cambodia by the French in 1941. He led Cambodia to independence in 1953 and later abdicated to become an elected political leader. He is a passionate Francophile with a house in France.

He returned to Phnom Penh as chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC), a reconciliation body conceived as part of a peace plan formulated by the five permanent Security Council members — France, Britain, China, the Soviet Union and the United States.

"France has given back Cambodia's national identity," said Prince Sihanouk, referring to the French role in bringing about the Paris accord. Mr. Dumas presided jointly with Indonesia at the peace conference.

"You are my president," the ebullient Prince Sihanouk told Mr. Dumas.

"Here you are my king," Mr. Dumas replied.

Prince Sihanouk's longtime foes in the Phnom Penh government Wednesday declared Prince Sihanouk head of state of all Cambodia.

Hun Sen, premier of the Phnom Penh government, has said he personally would back Prince Sihanouk if he wished to become king again. Prince Sihanouk has said he would accept the role if the people wanted.

Mr. Hun Sen and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong greeted Mr. Dumas at Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport, which still bears the scars of Khmer Rouge rocket attacks in the 1970s.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Dumas later attended the final day of Cambodia's Water Festival, a traditional celebration of boat races revived last year after a 20-year ban.

Mr. Dumas is scheduled to meet leaders of the SNC, including Hun Sen, the army chief and former chief executioner of the radical Khmer Rouge, Saturday. SNC delegates have begun gathering in Phnom Penh under the terms of the Paris accord.

Mr. Dumas is to leave Sunday for Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, and will also go briefly to the capital of Laos, Vientiane. Both countries were part of the French empire until the 1950s.

## Sweden receives copies of 'most interesting' papers on Wallenberg

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The Swedish government has received copies of key documents unearthed by investigators searching Soviet archives for clues to the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, an embassy official has said.

Hans Magnusson, minister plenipotentiary to the Swedish embassy, said his government's officials are finding new documents almost every week relating to Wallenberg, but they still do not know what happened to him after he was imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

Former Soviet Union Minister Boris Pankin Wednesday handed over the copies of documents the Swedish researchers had seen previously, said Mr. Magnusson.

"We asked to receive copies of the most interesting documents to send back to Stockholm," he said.

Mr. Pankin, formerly the Soviet Union's ambassador to Sweden, has allowed the Swedes to search through Foreign Ministry archives covering the period up to 1961, Mr. Magnusson said. There have been reports that Wallenberg was seen alive in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Mr. Pankin was named ambassador to Britain this week when Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze returned to the post of foreign minister.

Mr. Wallenberg is credited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarians during World War II before he was arrested by the Soviet army.

Soviet authorities denied any knowledge of Wallenberg until 1957, when they told Sweden he had died 10 years before in a Soviet prison. Documents relating to the Soviet decision to make the 1957 disclosure to the Swedes were among those Mr. Magnusson described as interesting.

"We have now received reports on conversations between Swedish and Soviet officials, and internal reports," said Mr. Magnusson.

"They were withholding information all time from 1947 to 1957 when they denied Wallenberg was in the Soviet Union," said Mr. Magnusson. "It appears the Foreign Ministry knew in February 1947 he was here."

"We learned also there was a letter from the minister of state security to (then-Soviet Foreign Minister) Vyacheslav Molotov on July 17, 1947, the day, according to the official Soviet version, that Wallenberg died," Mr. Magnusson said. "That letter has not been found, but it was registered" in an internal document as having been received by Mr. Molotov.

Mr. Magnusson said among the documents is a letter Mr. Molotov wrote to the Soviet government in April 1956 after the Swedish government had presented signed testimonies of German prisoners of war who had seen Mr. Wallenberg.

In that letter Mr. Molotov "suggested the government should reveal to the Swedish side the truth about Wallenberg's fate," Mr. Magnusson said.

"That implies, although it's not quite clear, that something happened to him. It's implied in the word 'fate'."

The Soviet authorities presented a doctor's certificate in 1957, saying Mr. Wallenberg had died of a heart attack in 1947.

"The work goes on. New documents are found every week more or less," said Mr. Magnusson. But there is still "no document certifying he would have been alive after 1947."

## Frenchman ends journey across Pacific

**ILWACO, Washington (AP)** — Frenchman Gerard d'Aboville arrived at this small fishing village, ending a 10,136-kilometre rowing adventure across the Pacific Ocean from Japan. He held up his oars in greeting as he floated past the docks at this town on the southwestern tip of Washington. French and American flags flew from his 26-foot (8-metre) rowboat. D'Aboville, 42, was cheered by a crowd that included family, friends and dozens of French journalists as he eased his kayak-like boat the dock 134 days after he began his historic voyage. The U.S. Coast Guard escorted d'Aboville across the Columbia River Bar, the area of turbulent where currents collide with ocean waves. As he approached the coast Thursday morning, he celebrated with a glass of red wine.

## Thousands attracted to camel fair

**PUSHKAR, India (AP)** — The dealers were on the lookout for knock-kneed camels, pilgrims bathed in holy water, and the tourists were entertained by dancing acrobats. By the time it ended Thursday, an estimated 400,000 people came to bargain for 15,357 camels or just to watch the sheer spectacle of one of the world's largest camel fairs. The four-day fair is held annually on the full moon heralding winter in the Rajasthan Desert of northern India, attracting buyers and sellers in brilliant day-glow turbans. Chotu Singh, a camel merchant from the Nagar district, was in the market for four animals, for which he expects to pay 35,000 to 40,000 rupees (\$1,375-1,560). "I watch its legs to see that they don't knock together," said Singh. "When the camel is walking, it's important that the legs do not swing out to the side. Also when looking at a camel from a distance you should not be able to see its teeth." On the skimpy farmlands of Rajasthan, camels far outnumber tractors or any other livestock. A 5-year-old male at its peak can fetch up to 20,000 rupees (\$785). A camel may have more than 20 working years. Males are favoured over females. "The females are softer, like our women," grinned Hazir Nagara, who has been coming to the Pushkar Market for 20 years.

## Man rescued from ocean 2 days after boat sinks

**BEAUFORT (AP)** — A man who floated in a box for two days after his boat sank was rescued Tuesday from the Atlantic Ocean, the Coast Guard said. Lamar Campbell, 24, was in stable condition at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. He suffered dehydration and hypothermia, authorities said. A man who was with Campbell when their shrimp boat sank Sunday hadn't been found by late Tuesday night. A Coast Guard helicopter was returning to Savannah, Georgia, when Campbell was spotted eight kilometres off the coast of Fripp Island, off South Carolina's southern coastline. It was about 100 kilometres south of where the 28-foot (8½-metre) shrimp boat Little Rose went down. "We saw there was something in the water," flight mechanic Jim Lidbeck said. "At first we thought it was a cooler. Then we saw him waving." Campbell told his rescuers he had been in the 4-foot-by-4-foot (1¼-metre-by-1¼-metre) box since the boat went down. The box appeared to be an engine cover, ensign Mark Fluit said.

## Court rules in favour of dog meat

**SEOUL (AP)** — A judge ruled that dog meat cannot be described as a "repugnant" food in South Korea because many Koreans enjoy it. Judge Kim In-Su of the Seoul District Civil Court ruled in favour of Chun In-Chun, a dog meat seller seeking compensation from a taxi company for spinal injuries he suffered when a taxi collided with his motorcycle in August. Chmng's claim for about \$300,000 in compensation was based in part on income lost for inability to carry out his sales activities since August. The taxi company refused to pay, contending that Mr. Chmng's business was illegal. It said he was selling dog meat banned by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs as a "repugnant" food. But the judge, in South Korea's first court ruling on dog meat, said the nation's food laws doesn't specifically ban it. Although dog meat has not been sold openly at restaurants, the government's crackdown on its sale has been unofficial so far, he said.